

105-109 FULHAM ROAD, LONDON
21 LONDON ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS
19 HOLYWELL HILL, ST ALBANS
12-13 WATERLOO STREET, BRISTOL
10 PRINCES STREET, HARROGATE
16 THE PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA
46 KING STREET, KNUITSFORD

Anxious officials insist they can keep a secret

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE final countdown to the 1991 census began yesterday with the launch of a £1.3 million publicity drive, amid almost obsessive official assurances that data collected from households would not be misused.

Census officials remain anxious that some people might not complete forms for fear of information being passed to poll tax registration officers. However, a suggestion that the publicity campaign should carry extra information to answer that worry was rejected because it might be counter-productive. Peter Wormald, the registrar general, was confident that there would be very few prosecutions for non-completion of forms. About 800 people were prosecuted for refusing to co-

operate with the last census and 99.5 per cent of questionnaires were completed.

Mr Wormald admitted that there were public anxieties about census data being used to identify non-payers of the poll tax, but said: "The data has never got into the wrong hands in the past and it won't this time." People employed in collecting the tax have been barred from applying for any of the 130,000 temporary jobs involved in the census.

Staff are legally bound to ensure that data remains secret and is used to produce only general population statistics. Disclosure of information to other government departments is forbidden. Members of the armed services will, as usual, be exempt from the count. Leaflets explaining the



Census 1991

purpose of the census will be delivered to the 22 million households in England, Scotland and Wales. The exercise will also take in the locations of homeless people, whom

officials are determined to count with unprecedented accuracy. Charities supporting the homeless have helped the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to identify the main areas of homelessness, and will help distribute questionnaires to people sleeping rough on April 21, census day.

Television and newspaper advertisements emphasise the key role that the census plays in helping to shape the future of a wide range of public services, including housing, transport, schools and health care. Some 115,000 part-time staff have been recruited to deliver the forms, which will be given to householders a week before census day and collected from April 22.

"The census is of vital importance to all of us," Mr Wormald said. "It is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for the country to take stock of its greatest asset — its people."

A horse named Katie joined the army of census workers yesterday, and posed a problem to officials. Census workers will receive 18.8p a mile if they use their cars to visit homes, or 4p a mile if they use their own bicycles. However, nobody thought that a volunteer would use a horse.

Valerie Kalyonack, a census worker, borrowed Katie from a local stable to visit remote homes in the Camborne area. Roger Sprosen, census officer in Camborne, Cornwall, said: "I will try and get some money so Katie does not go hungry and gets a bale of hay."

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Libby Purves, page 16

Sinn Fein to exploit the count

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IN NORTHERN Ireland the census has been used as an opportunity for protest by republicans against British rule, but this time Sinn Féin is urging its supporters to co-operate and hopes to use information garnered from it to its advantage.

In 1981 the census was carried out at a time of heightened tension and emotion in the province in the run-up to the death of Bobby Sands, the first of ten men to die in the H-block hunger strike. Sinn Féin and the IRA encouraged people then not to fill in their forms and one

enumerator, Joanne Mathers, aged 24, was shot dead.

To start with, official figures show the completion rate was about 94 per cent for Northern Ireland as a whole, the lowest anywhere in the United Kingdom. After individual appeals to people and two revisions, the registrar general's office estimated that it achieved a 98.5 per cent result.

This time officials are confident the initial take-up rate will be higher, if not close to 100 per cent. Trevor Evans, census manager for the registrar general, said: "We have no indication of any grassroots

opposition to this census. Our answer to anybody who opposes the census is that, arguably, public services will be better for such an exercise."

Richard McCauley, for Sinn Féin, said the census was being seen this time as an opportunity to get reliable information on the religious make-up of the Northern Ireland population, which is roughly 60 per cent Protestant and 40 per cent Catholic.

"Accurate material built on the census will help to expose the inadequacies of British government policy in the north," he said.



Heartfelt smiles: Anne Cooper (left) and Allison McGuire smiling after being introduced yesterday. Their lives have been saved by a "domino" operation in which Allison, aged 15, was given the heart of Anne, aged 24, who received the heart and lungs of a teenage paperboy who died in a road accident (Peter de Lamo writes). Allison had been dying from a heart muscle virus and Anne suffered from cystic fibrosis before the operation last month, the first of its kind at Wythenshawe hospital in Manchester. Anne had been waiting for a transplant since November. The women had been recovering in adjoining rooms.

£4m deal lets RSC remain at Barbican

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's future at the Barbican Centre was assured yesterday when the corporation of London voted to give it an extra £4 million over the next three years.

Without the money, the company would almost certainly have had to "re-trench" before the year was out, Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic director, said. It had already moved out of the centre for four months last winter to save £1.3 million and avoid bankruptcy.

The corporation's decision to match the Arts Council's enhancement funding follows four months of negotiations. The RSC's exclusive rights to the Barbican theatres through its 1982 lease, however, have been weakened in the terms of the new agreement, which also demands other commitments.

In return for £1.35 million a year for the next three years, the RSC has committed itself to the Barbican and Pit theatres, has undertaken to eliminate its deficit of £3.5 million by the end of March 1994; is to include Debra O'Carroll, managing director of the Barbican Centre, as an observer on its committees; will pay compensation to the City for any cancellations; and will collaborate with the centre on marketing and artistic ventures. If the RSC suspends operations for anything more than four weeks, the City can hire the theatres out itself.

Innocent firms in Iraq list backlash

By RAY CLANCY

BRITISH companies whose names are very similar to those appearing on the heavily criticised blacklist of firms and individuals drawn up by the United States government last night demanded action from the US Treasury to clear up the ambiguities.

Some companies are worried that their business could be affected by the similarities, and others fear reprisals from customers or potential customers who do not approve of any links with Saddam Hussein's regime.

The British-based Middle East Economic Digest, owned by Emap Publishing, is worried that customers will link the publication with MEED International Ltd, a company with an office in London on the American blacklist, which was drawn up with the aim of identifying and freezing the assets of companies and individuals involved in illegal deals with Iraq.

David Westgarth, publishing director of the digest, said: "Our office in Dubai was contacted by the British embassy and told to take precautions against possible reprisals from people who might link us with Iraq because of the similarity of our name to one on the US list."

He received some assurances after contacting the American Treasury Department. "They told me they were very upset at having caused trouble and they were working on it to see if there was anything that they could do."

Atlas-Wright (Europe) Ltd,

a Birmingham-based company that designs and in-air-conditioning systems computers, is angry because the list includes a firm called Atlas Equipment Company Limited of London, believe potential customers could think we are linked to the Iraqis, especially as the firm on the list is a conditioning company, spokeswoman said. The company has four subsidiaries which could also be misinterpreted by the blacklisted company.

The trade and industry department said that it is powerless to do anything about the ambiguities: an American list, and it is to the US to sort this out. It pointed out several possibilities when we received the draft list from Washington and we understand they taken on board.

"But the draft only contained names, not addresses, so obviously some confusion has arisen."

Man on boat 'did not see danger'

The crewman on the dr Bowbelle who first saw pleasure cruiser March 150 ft ahead minutes before it collided with the 51 lives did not tell bridge because he did consider her a danger. Central Criminal Court yesterday (Lin Jenkins v Edward Quantrell, who on the bow when he saw the other vessel as the Bow passed under South Bridge at around 10.15 said she appeared to be in a position which would be the larger vessel to overtake.

The master of the Bow Douglas Henderson, 49, is accused under the Merchant Shipping Act of failing to ensure a proper lookout. trial continues today.

Bomb attempt

Scotland Yard's anti-terror squad is investigating a being attempt at Preston station, Lancashire, late Wednesday night. Six coming from a blue hold one of the platforms found to have come from incendiary device. vi police say was meant to be used and was not an elabo box. The Euston to Carlisle train was alongside.

Haughey scart

A Spanish student was g tioned by police yesterday after being arrested in grounds of the home Charles Haughey, the prime minister. The student who is studying in Dublin, carrying a loaded shotgun, was released after six he when police accepted that had wandered by accident the grounds while shooting pigeons. Mr Haughey was at home at the time.

Noisy dog fine

A dog cost his owner £11 yesterday after escaped neighbours and people in the next street complained about its continual barking. John Gadd, 41, owner of Max, a doberman pinscher, was found guilty his absence of three offences under the Control of Pollution Act by Cardiff magistrates. Gadd, of Roath, was £500 on each count with £1 costs.

Under the Water Pollution Act, 1988, a dog owner who allows his dog to defecate in a public place is liable to a fine of up to £500. Gadd was fined £110 for each of the three offences. He was also ordered to pay £110 for each of the three offences. He was also ordered to pay £110 for each of the three offences.

crowd rushes on to work department

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Noisy dog fine

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Children freed after sheriff's blistering criticism of officials in Orkney ritual abuse hearing

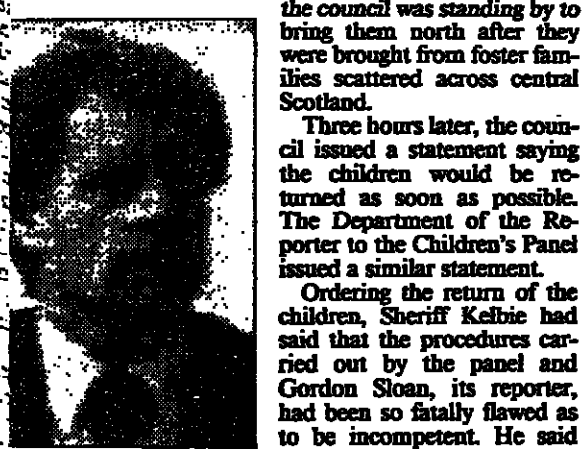
Angry crowd marches on social work department

By KERRY GILL

Nine children in the Orkney Islands were returned to their parents after a Scottish sheriff's blistering attack on the in which the children's and social workers had been criticised.

The children, who had been in care for more than five weeks, were returned to their parents after a hearing in which the sheriff, Mr Lee, criticised the social work department for its handling of the case. The children had been in care for more than five weeks, and the sheriff's criticism was described as "blistering".

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Happy families: parents embracing outside the court yesterday on learning that their children were to be returned after five weeks in care

Mr Lee stood grimly behind his desk, braving verbal attacks from the parents as they demanded the return of their children, followed by his immediate resignation. The families had bottled up their emotion for more than five weeks. In Mr Lee's small, modern office, it was released in a torrent of rage.

They accused his staff of stealing their children and illegally interrogating them. Mr Lee kept asking for everyone to go except the parents. He telephoned for the police, who arrived quickly, but the anger of the crowd had abated and most agreed to leave.

One mother emerged later and said that Mr Lee had told her that the children would be returned before nightfall if possible. It was understood that an aircraft chartered by the council was standing by to bring them north after they were brought from foster families scattered across central Scotland.

Three hours later, the council issued a statement saying the children would be returned as soon as possible. The Department of the Reporter to the Children's Panel issued a similar statement.

Ordering the return of the children, Sheriff Kelbie had said that the procedures carried out by the panel and Gordon Sloan, its reporter, had been so fatally flawed as to be incompetent. He said that it had been an emotive and difficult case. "It is not very often that I lose sleep over a case that I have to decide, but this is one in which I have," he said.

The panel had not called the children to hear the allegations, which it was obliged to do. The children had been deprived of their fundamental rights, he said. "It is important to remember that children are persons and not simply subjects for proceedings." If the reporter and the hearing had borne this in mind, they could not have failed to appreciate the importance of the rules, Sheriff Kelbie said.

"It will not do if a cavalier attitude is adopted, whether the rules are observed or not. I have come to the decision that these proceedings are so fatally flawed as to be incompetent. I cannot in all conscience leave matters in that unsatisfactory state," he said. He said that he had considered documentary evidence, read interviews and listened to tapes. He added that the children, far from being taken to places of safety, were separated from one another and cross-examined to break their resolve and get them to admit to having been abused.

Two children did say things that bore a certain similarity, with the active encouragement of those conducting the interviews. This had amounted to "repeated coaching" that may well have tainted anything that might have been repeated in a court.

One child said that the abuse had never happened; other children emphatically denied that anything had occurred; another said to an interviewer: "Did you know that this was all a lie?" That remark had been brushed aside.

On the claims of ritual abuse, music being played during the hearing, Sheriff Kelbie said: "I am not sure what is meant by ritual music. It could be anything from Kylie Minogue to Michael Jackson, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*, *Strip the Willow* or *The Grand Old Duke of York*." Cloaks, masks, crosses and unusual statues seized by the authorities bore little evidential significance, he added.

Sheriff Kelbie said he hoped that the reporter would give serious consideration to each child and the evidence and the manner in which it was obtained. "I hope the answer will be that they are all returned to their parents as soon as possible."

As the local lawyers for the families left the court yesterday, supporters cheered and applauded. One father said: "It is just wonderful. It was so wonderful to hear the sheriff going through and showing that the children's panel broke the law, flouted the law. The children have suffered what is basically illegal questioning. Words cannot express how I feel."

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Call for body to provide guidance

By RONALD FAUX and JILL SHERMAN

A statutory body should be set up to register and guide social workers and to set standards for professional practice, social service organisations said yesterday.

David Jones, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, called for a body which would offer "a tent standard of practice" for social workers. The idea was also supported by the Association of Social Workers.

Social workers had been the subject of endless ad hoc enquiries on child cases, including the case of Jasmine Beckford, the girl who was sexually abused by a social worker, and the case of a girl who was sexually abused by a social worker.

Social workers tend to operate at a therapeutic level, helping a child overcome problems. Police operate according to rules of evidence and legal procedure, and often it is very difficult to disentangle the forensic approach from the therapeutic.

"Knowledge of how children should be interviewed in these cases is fairly limited. There is no great body of expert knowledge to fall back on and these skills need to be more widely discussed and reviewed so that guidance can be given."

Mr Jones said that child abuse investigations were not lightly embarked upon. They took time, energy and there was a personal cost to the social worker. In most cases the evidence came without the social worker deliberately looking for it. "They are not on the streets waiting to pounce but they have to react when they hear a distressing or disturbing story from a child. The cases in Orkney and Rochdale are distressing but the reality is that across the country there are thousands of children who are being protected by social workers who are also working in partnership with parents," he said.

Parliament had carried out a thorough review of child care law but legislation could never resolve the dilemma of a social worker faced with the child who brought allegations against his or her own parents, he said. "There is no simple solution to that. You have to make a judgement on each case and most of the time we get it right," he said.

Peter Thomson, a Rochdale councillor and social services committee member, said yesterday that the Orkney result, following the Rochdale and Cleveland cases, demonstrated that the guidelines from the Department of Health on abuse cases should be given the force of law. "The protection of children has to be a community responsibility and a clear line is needed on when the social services can and cannot act. Otherwise this nonsense will go on," he said. The notorious cases had at least given practical experience on the best way of handling future cases of children subjected to satanic, sexual or ritual abuse.

Barry Barton, of Parents Against Injustice (Pain), said the main concern was not that social workers had failed to observe good practice in one or two big cases that received a lot of publicity. There were other families Pain dealt with that did not receive the same attention. The nub of the problem, he said, was that police acted under criminal law requiring proof that was beyond reasonable doubt but social workers operated under civil law and acted when there was a balance of probability that a child had been abused.

AN IN THE NEWS

No-nonsense but fair judge

By KERRY GILL

VID Kelbie, the tall, ruddy sheriff who delivered a withering attack on the Orkney children's el procedures, yesterday became the most popular man on the islands. Sheriff Kelbie, aged 45, is regarded as a no-nonsense but fair judge. His onslaught into the way the nine children had been placed in care was hailed as a victory, not only for the four families involved in the cases, but also as a vindication of the law.

Sheriff Kelbie is married, has a son and daughter. A hearseman, he was educated at Inverurie Academy, Aberdeenshire and studied at Aberdeen University with honours. He has been an associate barrister at Heriot Watt University and writes on



Kelbie: Island's most popular man



Happy families: parents embracing outside the court yesterday on learning that their children were to be returned after five weeks in care

ORKNEY SOCIAL SERVICES

Ritual fears taken to heart

THE Orkney social work department is headed by Paul Lee, its director. The two social workers at the centre of the present affair are Sue Miller, the team leader, and Michelle Miller. They are not related (Kerry Gill writes).

Many of the four families' supporters believe that some elements of the department have become infected with a quasi-religious zeal that spilled over when they seized the nine children. Almost no one except the social work department could believe that ritual sexual abuse was taking place on South Ronaldsay.

The spectre of ritual abuse stems from America although

no single case has ever been proved. At a recent conference for social workers in Scotland a speaker, who was involved in giving advice to social workers in Nottingham and Rochdale, expounded her view that ritual abuse took place.

There are many different religious groups on Orkney, ranging from the established church, Quakers and Presbyterians to members of the Orkney Christian Fellowship. The scare stories increased last year when some children said they had been to a religious summer camp on one island where exorcisms to rid them of the devil took place.

The matter was further complicated when a father on Orkney was jailed for sexually abusing some of his children. He is still in prison but last November the mother and her eight children remaining at home were seized. They are still in care.

It was the support for the mother by the four families that brought the spotlight of the social work department upon them. The issue was made even more complicated when the Rev Morris McKenzie, a Church of Scotland minister, was questioned by police in relation to the latest child sex allegations.

SCOTS SYSTEM

Parents get much tighter legal safeguard

By PETER VICTOR

PARENTS of children taken into care in Scotland have a much more extensive series of legal safeguards than those in the Cleveland and Rochdale cases, according to Lillian Edwards, lecturer in Scottish law at Edinburgh University.

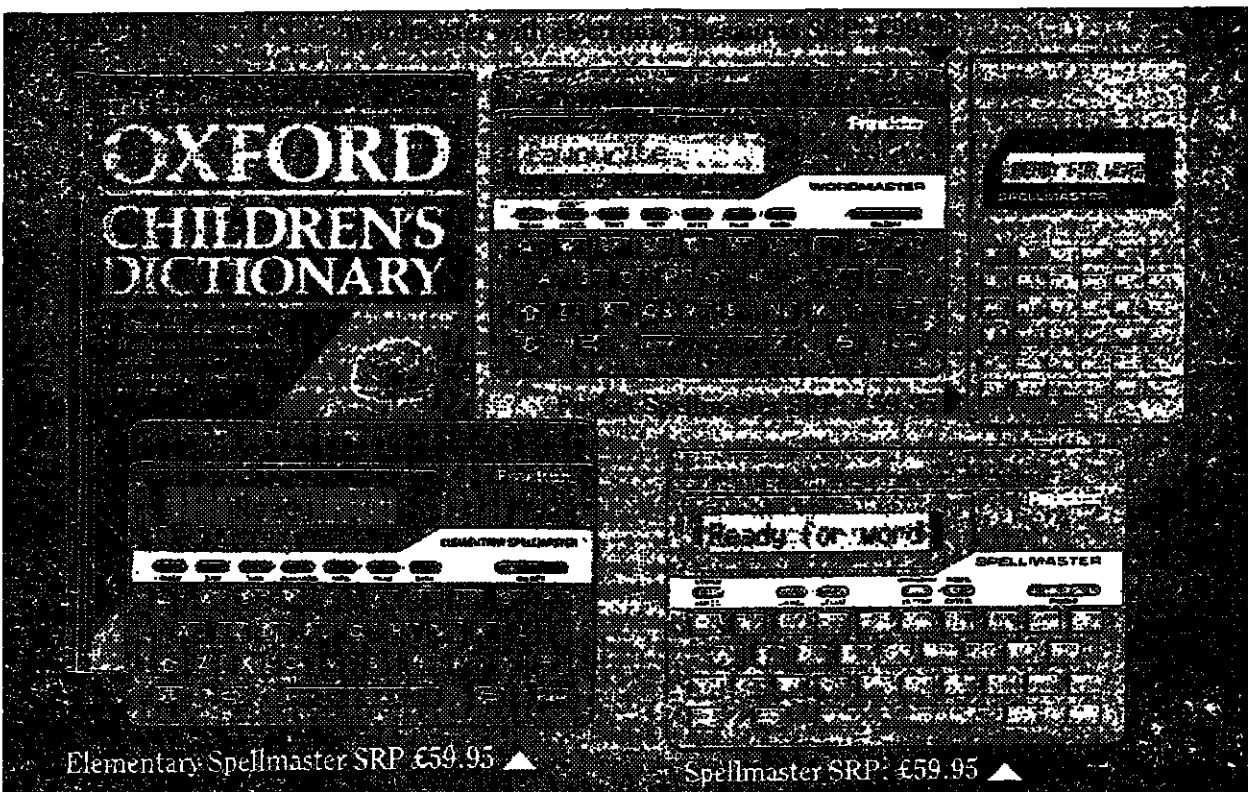
"The primary thing is that you would never get a situation like Cleveland," she said. "As soon as social workers get a place of safety order, they must take the child to a children's panel on the next lawful day or within seven days at the latest." As a first safeguard, Scottish parents have a right of appeal to the sheriff against the place of safety order. This must be heard within three days.

The children's panel is made up of lay persons with a reporter—usually a lawyer but sometimes a social worker—to provide guidance. The lay members of the panel are trained extensively in child law, welfare rights and child protection. "The idea is that they make the decision, not the judges and not the social workers," Ms Edwards said.

In further contrast to English child protection teams, made up mainly of social workers, health authority representatives and police, Scottish parents have a right to attend hearings and bring a representative—a supportive friend or sometimes a lawyer—and the children can also attend. The parents are allowed to make representations. "The whole thing is informal and the welfare of the children is primary. Usually the reporter is occupied playing with the children to keep them quiet," she said. "The process is not like a court. The hearing takes place in an ordinary room."

Once the children's panel has made a final decision on the case, parents have three weeks to appeal. If a child is taken into care, unlike England, there are regular annual reviews. "The local authority can ask for a review of the panel's decision at any time," Ms Edwards said. "Parents can also ask for a review within three months. However, the guiding principle of the thing is that parents get to say everything they want to at the hearings."

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Forecast of disruption to primary school tests

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

First tests under the new curriculum are likely to be disrupted next week in London and may not be conducted properly in areas of the country, a union leader said today.

Mr de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said his prediction was based on his union's annual conference in Bournemouth, which rejected calls to boycott standard assessment (SATs). They did not, however, say that teachers were disciplined for not following the union's policy of conducting only such tests as are possible during a "normal" working week.

Mr de Gruchy forecast that SATs in some inner city boroughs would be disrupted as members of the National Union of Teachers refused to do extra work to set them. Elsewhere, he said, many teachers were likely to fill in test scores at home through frustration, very seriously doubting that SATs will be delivered.

Mr de Gruchy said: "Many of our members cannot even understand how they should go about implementing the tests."

"At best, they will happen in a very haphazard way. People will get fed up and just fill in anything as long as the forms are completed. It might not be a very professional attitude, but there might be an argument for doing that in order to carry on teaching the kids."

The first tests for seven-year-olds begin next week, but delegates yesterday complained that they faced an impossible task in carrying them out in addition to normal teaching duties. Margaret Turkington, who is advising teachers in Haringey, north London, on the implementation of the tests, calculated that 960 assessments and 144 test sessions would be required for the average class.

Mr de Gruchy said that the conference decision to oppose tests for seven-year-olds without resorting to a boycott reflected a wish to expose their unworkable nature. "The best hope is for SATs to collapse under their own weight and impossibility, rather than allowing teachers to be blamed and letting the government off the hook."

Neil Fairclough, an executive member, said: "These tests have to be seen to fail because they are wrong, not because teachers make them fail."

The conference also unanimously adopted a resolution accusing some governing bodies of arbitrary, incompetent and vindictive abuses of power. Delegates recounted a string of incidents involving governors, from an instruction not to wear jeans in a technology lesson to lengthening of the school day in several cases of dismissal.

Jim West, of the Solent branch, said that one Hampshire teacher had been dismissed by his governors because of alcohol abuse on the day before he was due to



De Gruchy: fears scores will be filled in at random

start a six-week residential course to tackle the problem. He said: "Why should teachers' careers be subject to, at best, the muddled actions of well-intentioned amateurs and, at worst, the vindictive actions of ill-intentioned busybodies? These people are not even our employers."

Members of the union will be advised not to become involved in marketing activities after a motion which condemned the commercialisation of schools. Mick Carney, for the executive, said that children were being bombarded by advertising in schools. "Children are consumers. Pick them early and you have got a customer for life: that's what it's really about, naked exploitation."

Bright-light cure for early wakers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AUSTRALIAN psychologist believes that he has found a cure for people who wake up too early in the morning.

Dr Lack of Flinders University, Adelaide, says that insomniacs have been clocked out of tune by a 24-hour cycle of the light. He has found that by bright lights at dawn, they can be woken before they go to bed, providing more

body temperature of sleepers reaches a peak at 6pm and a minimum at 6am. Those early-morning insomniacs whose lowest body temperature is at about midnight, which triggers a few hours later, a second sleep does not suffer as they find they are up at 2am or 3am.

Dr Lack and colleagues put their subjects in a room in the early evening and turned on banks of powerful lights. Just before midnight they were switched off, the aim being to convince the insomniacs that it was still daylight, pushing forward their low-temperature phase closer to the 5am normal for most people.

After two days the subjects were found to be sleeping an average of 90 minutes longer. "It seems to change their pattern right away," Dr Lack said. "The extra sleep was still present with them a week after the study. It seems their temperature rhythms were just out of phase with the normal environment."

Dr Lack said that the lamps used were ten times brighter than normal house lighting, which would not be powerful enough to work.



Flower girl: senior staff nurse Jane Radnor of Marie Curie Cancer Care with some of the blooms which the charity will give away tomorrow in exchange for a donation on Daffodil Day, its national collecting day. The charity will hand over 1½ million daffodils in an effort to raise £200,000

BR faces challenge on legality of cuts

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SUCCESSIVE cuts in rural and urban rail timetables could be in violation of British Rail's statutory obligation to maintain loss-making services, the government-appointed rail watchdog said yesterday.

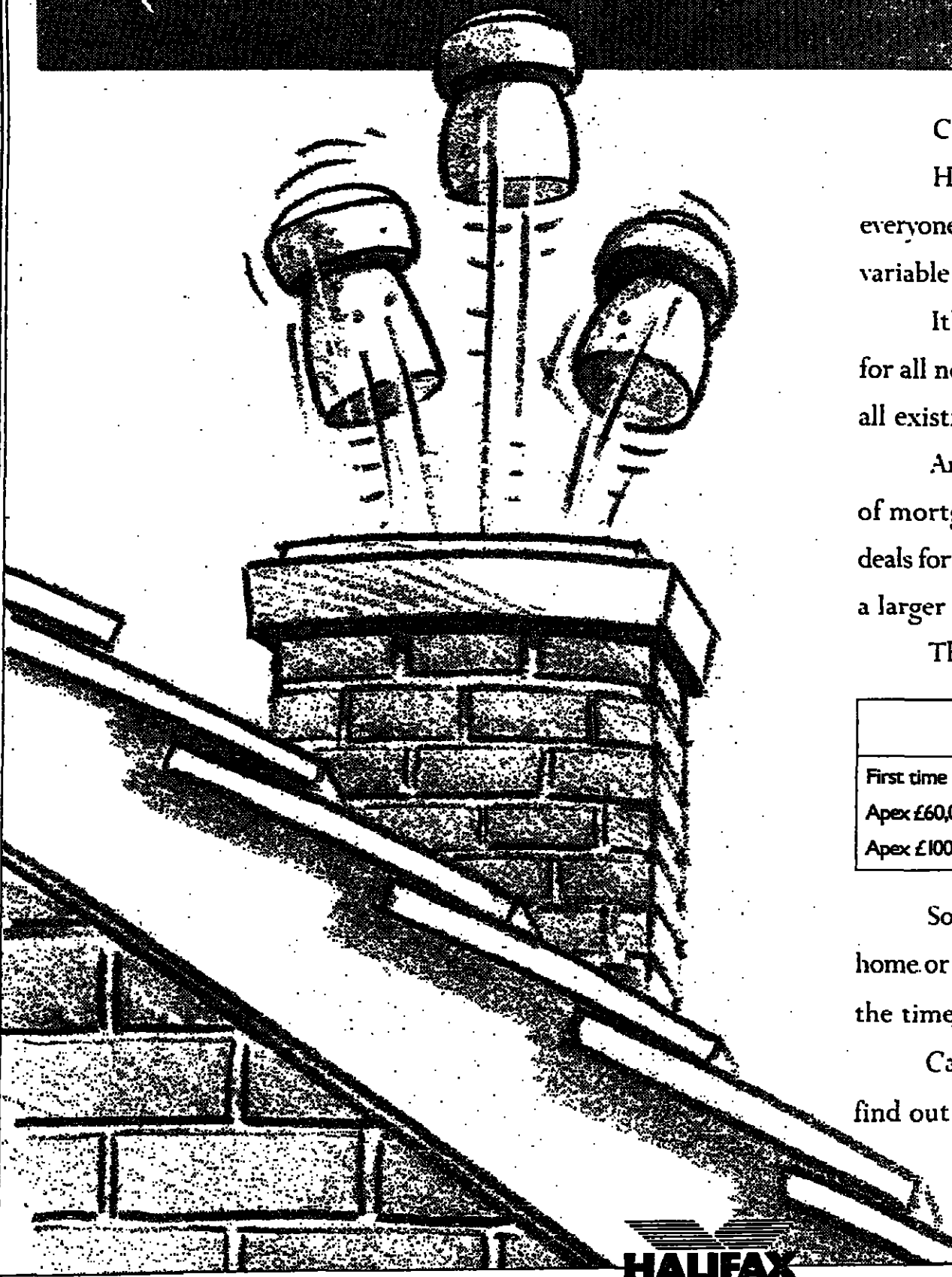
Challenging the legality of recent and proposed service cuts, the central transport consultative committee, representing passenger interests, accused BR of disguising the extent of cutbacks on rural and urban lines. "Cuts to be introduced in July will mean that the service on 37 per cent of routes will be less than that provided in 1988," it said.

The service reductions, it said, may be in breach of the 1988 ministerial direction requiring BR to maintain loss-making but socially necessary services.

BR rejected the allegations, insisting it was duty bound to run rail services economically. An initiative aimed at making train journeys safer for women travelling alone was launched yesterday by British Transport police. The Travel Safe scheme is designed to advise women on the practical steps they can take to protect themselves.

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Apex £100,000+	0.8%	12.95% 13.9% APR

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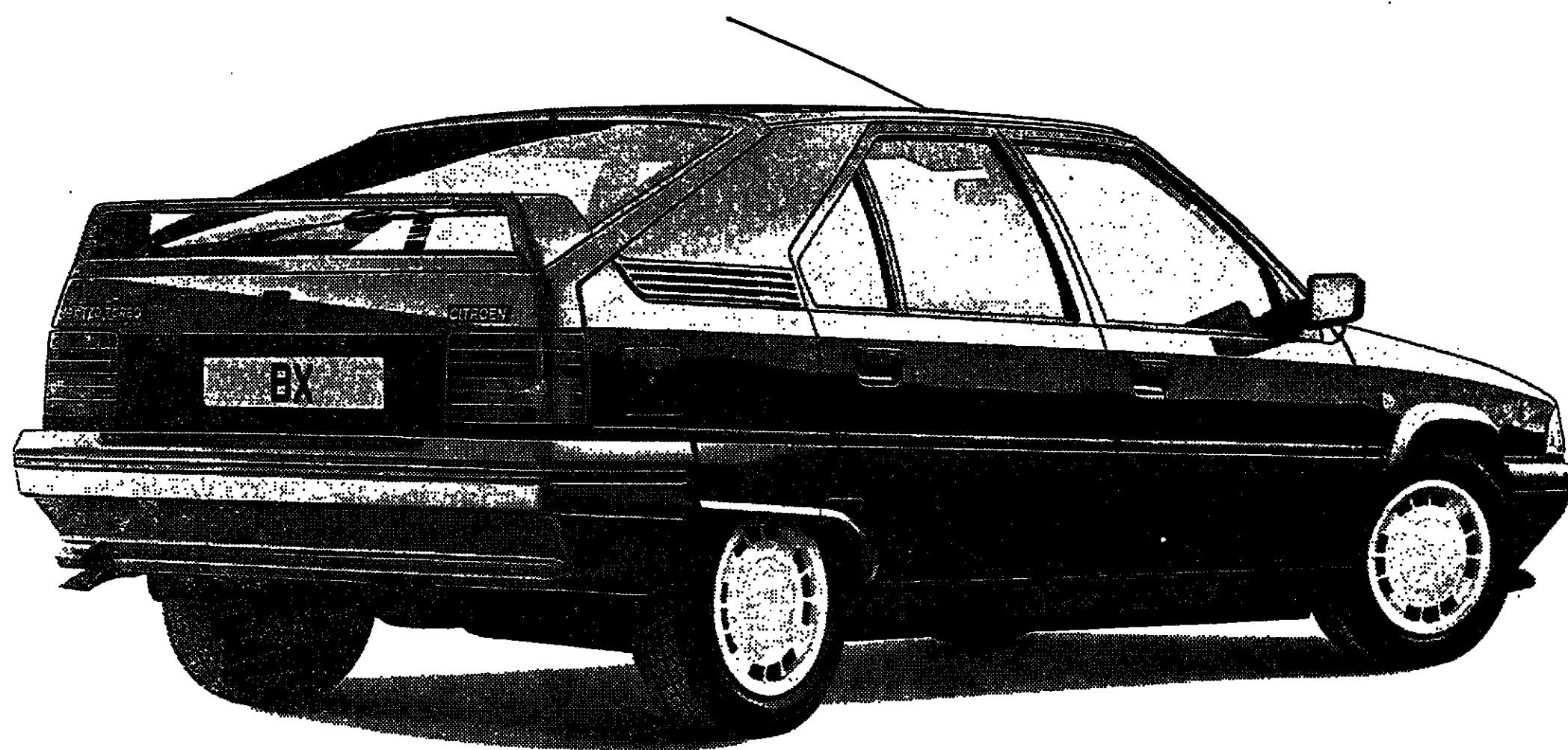
Call into any Halifax office today and find out how we can help you.

Then let the corks fly.

HALIFAX

EXAMPLE: A COUPLE (MALE AND FEMALE) BOTH NON-SMOKERS AGED 25 APPLYING FOR LOANS OF £50,000, £100,000 BASED ON AN ENCUMBRANCE MORTGAGE POLICY OVER 25 YEARS ON PURCHASE PRICES OF £50,000, £100,000 RESPECTIVELY. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS OF £390.95, £598.25 BOTH NET OF INCOME TAX AT THE BASE RATE. TOTAL AMOUNTS PAYABLE £236,795, £424,674, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL FEE AND CHARGE FOR DISPATCH OF TITLE DEEDS £15, SOLICITORS CHARGES £101.20, £120.50, VALUATION FEES OF £105, £175, AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £342.50, £576.68 RESPECTIVELY. MONTHLY ENDOWMENT PREMIUM £79, £131. RATE TOTAL AMOUNTS PAYABLE £236,795, £424,674, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL FEE AND CHARGE FOR DISPATCH OF TITLE DEEDS £15, SOLICITORS CHARGES £101.20, £120.50, VALUATION FEES OF £105, £175, AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £342.50, £576.68 RESPECTIVELY. MONTHLY ENDOWMENT PREMIUM £79, £131. 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Dusted vicar says church court was not impartial

By PAUL WILKINSON

Canon Gutsell, who has been flying through black smoke clouds bellowing from the blazing Kuwaiti oil fields, said yesterday that levels of pollution were only ten times worse than on a busy day in London and that soot levels were similar to a "dirty day" in Britain.

Acid rain, black snow and other noxious chemicals are likely to fall over the Gulf, Iran, Iraq, southeastern Turkey and possibly as far away as Afghanistan until the fires are extinguished. Initial findings indicate, however, that environmental damage will be largely regional and much less severe than some scientists had feared.

The researchers, a team from the Meteorological Office's research flight, released their preliminary results as Snoopy, the Hercules C-130 research plane used in the operation, touched down at RAF Farnborough. Only a thin coating of soot bore visible testament to the 55 hours of daylight missions which were turned almost to night as the plane and its cargo of advanced monitoring instruments scanned the clouds.

Dr Keith Browning, director of research, said that the average size of the smoke particles was 0.3 microns, the ideal size for absorbing the maximum amount of sunlight. The data collected, the first hard evidence on the environmental impact of the oil fires, will take more than a year to assimilate. The initial findings, however, are already confirming the accuracy of computer models which predicted the movement of the Kuwaiti smoke plumes before Snoopy left in late March. There had been fears that the smoke might rise high enough to enter and be trapped in the stratosphere from where it could circulate around the globe, acting as a dust shield and causing world-wide cooling. The findings indicate that this is not taking place, with only traces of smoke pollution being found at heights of 25,000ft.

Measurements taken 62 miles away from the source of the fires found that the maximum concentrations of smoke particles were at about 6,000ft.

Doug Johnson, one of the scientists involved, said that some of the concentrations were as high as 30,000 smoke particles per cubic centimetre. At about 125 miles downwind of the plume concentrations had fallen often to between 3,000 to 5,000 particle counts.

"On a very dirty day with an easterly wind blowing off the Continent, so that the air has been blowing from the German and French industrial areas, we have made measurements of 3,000 to 5,000 cubic centimetres in Britain," Mr Johnson said.

Over Saudi Arabia, 625 miles away, levels had fallen even lower to less than 1,000 counts per cubic centimetre.

Other key chemicals studied were sulphur dioxide, which causes acid rain, and nitrogen oxides. About 62 miles downwind of the fires these were found to be, on average, at levels of only ten times greater than those detected on a busy day in London.

Danny McKenna, another of the mission's scientists, said fears that the fires would lead to sharp increases in ground level ozone also appeared to be unfounded.

Scientists dispel darkest fears over Kuwaiti oil fires

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists who have been flying through black smoke clouds bellowing from the blazing Kuwaiti oil fields said yesterday that levels of pollution were only ten times worse than on a busy day in London and that soot levels were similar to a "dirty day" in Britain.

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Sooty sweep: Chris Kilsby, left, and Martin Lampit clearing grime from the Hercules they flew over Kuwait

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Life freed in bomb plot case

nan accused of plotting se explosions in Britain the case against her ed yesterday because of c of strong evidence. in McKane, aged 26, of den, northwest London, ed before Thames mag- s with three others, ing her husband Wil- McKane, aged 23. iam McKane, Nesson ivan, aged 28, from Lim- and Pearse McAuley, 15, from Strabane, were ited in custody for trial d with conspiracy to xplosions. Quinlivan McAuley are further d with conspiracy to r Sir Charles Tidbury, r chairman of the read brewing company

aine seized ne worth £7 million has eized from a bulk carrier arrived at Immingham Humberside, on Tues- om Colombia. The crew g questioned.

urder appeal d Harte, the only one of rish nationals convicted uryt in The Netherlands murder of two Austra- urists last May, is to l against the verdict, his said yesterday.

rosecution y Robinson, Labour Coventry North West, to be prosecuted for ing a shotgun without a ate after accidentally g his son in the foot at ome in Godalming, police said.

thers die l O'Neill, aged 6, and her Edward, aged five, sterday in a fire at their ear Castlecomer, Co y.

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By JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Amils Attack on base

Side talks

Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, is not President Bush in China today to try to relations aggravated since over Japan's \$41 (\$24 billion) trade surplus with America. He will support for a conclusion General Agreement on Trade and Trade Talks.

7 allegation

A French prisoner of the Vietnam war of defence, Wladyslaw Sohas filed a complaint against humanity committed by Boudarel, aged 63, a diversity lecturer, who political instructor in a PoW camp in the Indochina war. (AFP)

ps 'repelled'

— The Khmer Rouge had pushed back a cut offensive on its western and north-Cambodia. Guerrillas' armament forces have heavy fighting west of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in the last few weeks. Despite the situation was to assess. (Reuters)

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

EDS of thousands of dancing Hindus into central Delhi in a staggering display of "Hinduva lunacy". It was final the transformation of principal religion into al force, with far-implications for the an Muslims.

an give up any hope -violent general elec- this rally, one of the r years even by the r of political crowds rld's second most country.

said there were reople; others put the uch higher. Every o the capital was -with buses and tens inds of police tried to e mêlée of traffic and racially all markets It was boisterous, and not a little

election might be the most violent since independence gained credence as speakers raised tumultuous cheers from the crowds, standing more than a mile deep, with calls for the construction of a temple in the holy city of Ayodhya.

Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh, is a symbol of worsening Hindu-Muslim conflict over ancient religious buildings. Hardline organisations want to remove a mosque, called Babri Masjid, and erect a Hindu temple in its place, called Ram Janmabhoomi. They say this is the birthplace of the Hindu god-king, Lord Rama.

The battle of Ayodhya, which has gone on intermittently for centuries, is what brought the masses to Delhi yesterday. The failure or success of the rally was seen as a crucial marker to the atmosphere of the coming elec-

indus all wore saffron headbands, shirts, the colour of militancy. For all the denials of the S. the tacit message to anti-Muslims in northern India, Muslims con- in a run-up to the general election due in 1996. Fears that this



**FROM RICHARD LONG
IN WELLINGTON**

ABOUT 100,000 New Zealanders marched in cities and towns throughout the country yesterday to protest against large benefit cuts and radical changes in labour law which will greatly reduce trade union power.

Schools were closed as all of the country's 50,000 teachers deserted classrooms to join in the protest. While the marches were largely

peaceful, in Auckland one section of the crowd of 10,000 set fires in the streets and burned effigies of Jim Bolger, the prime minister, Ruth Richardson, the finance minister, and Jenny Shipley, the social welfare minister. Shop windows were broken and two people were arrested.

The marches followed the introduction this week of big benefit cuts as the government carved into welfare state spending to reduce the budget deficit. The unemployed, single parents, sick-

ness beneficiaries and pensioners faced cuts of up to a quarter of their income, which the government said were necessary to encourage a move from state dependency to work.

Marchers also protested against the planned introduction next month of the much criticised Employment Contracts Bill, which abolishes compulsory unionism, the exclusive rights of unions to bargain on behalf of workers, and changes national awards in favour of shopfloor collective or-

individual contracts. While the government argues that this will encourage productivity and growth, the unions say it will undermine workers' rights and reduce wages.

The walkout by teachers followed a health workers' stoppage the previous day which closed 15 public hospitals. The Council of Trade Unions, which is organising a week of protests, said stoppages would continue and the council would consider union calls for a general strike.

FROM GAVIN BELL
SUGAR BEETTING

SOUTH African police have arrested 24 men and claimed a breakthrough in investigations into black township violence, which has claimed more than 1,200 lives in the past seven months.

Eight were detained in connection with the killings of 15 mourners at a prayer vigil in Alexandra township, Johannesburg, last week, including Dixon Mbatha, aged 27, charged with murder. The others were held after killings in Natal at the weekend, in which at least 25 people died.

Meanwhile, the carnage continues. Patrick Majozi, a Zulu chief in the Richmond area near Durban, reported that six members of his community had been hacked to death, including a girl, aged eight.

In an unrelated court case, Eugene Marais, aged 28, a white right-wing fanatic, was sentenced to death yesterday for killing seven blacks by opening fire on a crowded bus in revenge for the stabbing of whites on the Durban beachfront by black extremists last October.

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It is not difficult to rebut the historical claim: to stand any chance of success, it would need to be conclusively proven that after the second world war the allied powers intended Iraq and Kuwait to be administered together as one state during the settlement of Middle East questions. This was demonstrably not the case. Iraq has admitted the existence of Kuwait as an independent state on many occasions and in October 1963, after Iraq had first rec-

The Kuwait-Iraq agreement of 1963, which the United Nations Security Council specifies as the basis for a final settlement and delineation of the boundary in the ceasefire resolution, is far from a detailed document. All it states is that Iraq agrees to respect the boundary introduced by the 1932 exchange of notes. The main trouble here is that the 1932 boundary definition was vague, embracing no more exact re-

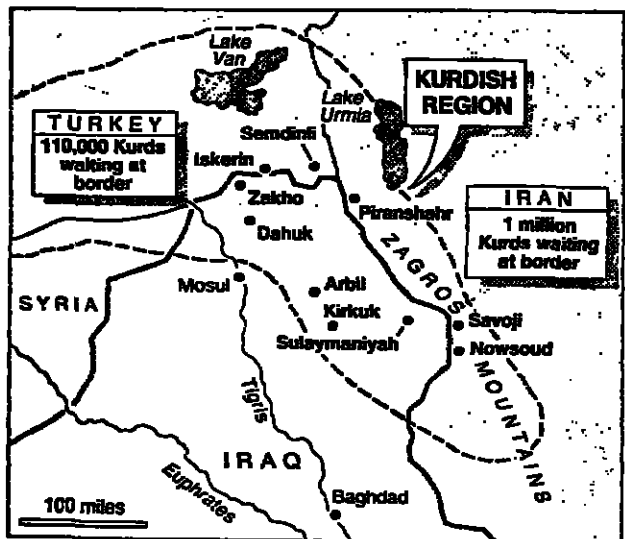
The long-established high Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti territory suggests that the border islands question will not discontinue with the current confrontation. Stability in the northwestern Gulf will probably depend on the sides reaching an accommodation according to a formula that guarantees the territorial integrity and security of Kuwait but addresses Iraq's strategic objective for secure access to the Persian Gulf.

Kuwait and Iraq: Historical and Territorial Disputes by N. Schofield is published by £7.50

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ISTANBUL

Rafi Dhaham al-Takriti, the Iraqi ambassador, was summoned to the foreign ministry in Ankara and told that Turkey would not stand aside if

President Ozal rang President Bush on Tuesday asking for help. He supported Washington's policy of non-intervention in the Iraqi civil war.



First family's pride: President and Barbara Bush with one of their grandchildren, Ellie LeBlond, taking part in an all-star tribute, organised by CBS Television, at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, to honour the American forces who took part in the Gulf war

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISIKVEREN

valley and the river has taken on almost the colour of blood from the clay banks being washed away. In the mountains, people are clustered in improvised tents made from blankets, and although they are being rained upon, drinking water is a problem; there is one nearby mountain spring, but it cannot meet the demand.

One refugee, an engineer from Dabuk with two children both below the age of two, says he has to wait three hours just to fill a canteen. Two Turkish



Pérez de Cuéllar: to be appealing for aid

humanitarian aid that Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, is expected to make on Monday, after consulting the eight United Nations agencies involved.

Turkey, which has complained that Iraq's repression of the Kurds jeopardises international peace, circulated its own draft resolution demanding that Iraq end its atrocities against civilians and asking

In discussions among the five powers, the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors argued that the plight of the Kurds was a domestic Iraqi problem over which the United Nations had no jurisdiction. But Western diplomats argued that Turkey's complaint that Iraq was driving people across the border and shelling its territory turned the Kurds' plight into an international incident.

**FROM SUSAN ELLIC
IN WASHINGTON**

The United States acted cautiously to avoid accusations that its troops used chemicals against the Kurds. The administration's lack of confirmation explains in part why American public has supported Mr Bush's reluctance to intervene on the Kurds facing attack by Saddam's helicopters, the media have been criticised over the past

Critics of President
decision not to intervene
Iraq's internal conflict
shooting down helicopters
ships do not expect a change
public opinion unless

The Kurds appear to have lost their best chance of winning public support by exaggerating their claims to have seized control of Kirkuk. The American public therefore appears skeptical about the reports that the Kurds, especially since the administration has declined to confirm them.

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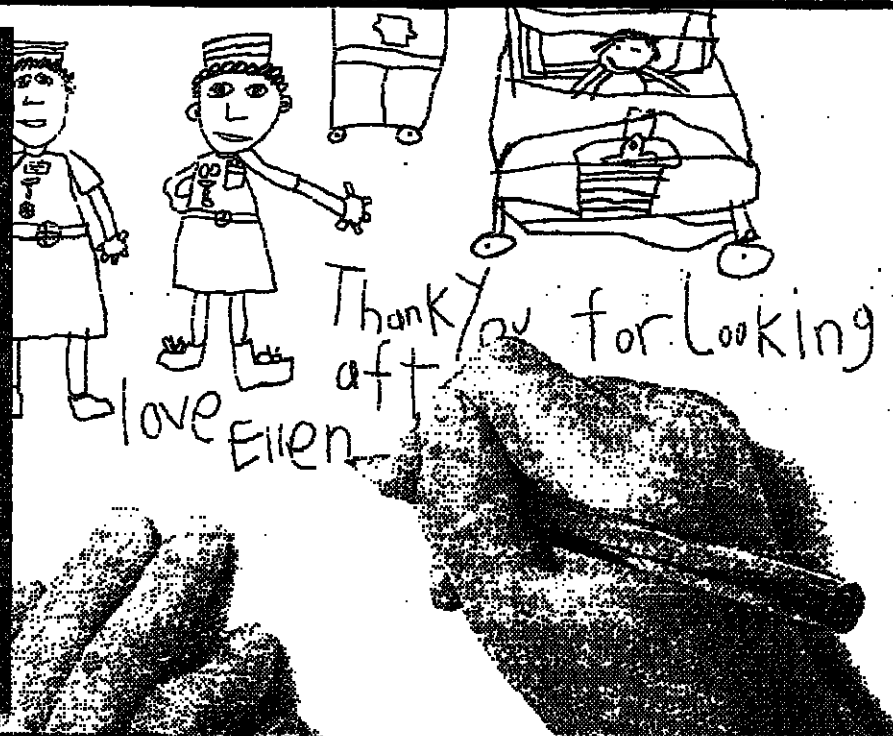
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the Balm" existing boundaries would be expected to be included in the agreement. It was not clear whether the islands would be returned to the Iraqi claimants or the islands question. The long-standing Iraqi claims on the islands question, with the current stability in the region, will probably be action to help the sides reaching an agreement. According to a UN Hussein's regime, guarantees the UN and its allies address the security of Iraq. A consensus exists for the UN to take the initiative to undertake a humanitarian mission. While most who have been voicing calls for UN and action to help the sides reaching an agreement, several of the Americans and allies should take action against Saddam's if they interfered with humanitarian relief.

Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, one in arguing that there is a basis for America to support the UN for the right to down helicopter gunships where they attacked. "They could do so on the basis that they were degrading the ceasefire," he said. He said, however, that any military intervention would be a permanent land. Washington said that America and the UN should call for a ceasefire, and that economic sanctions should remain in place until the world community was satisfied it was not killing its civilian population. David Howell, the chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, said America should have intervened militarily three weeks ago. Washington and its allies should stop the withdrawal of troops from the region, and postpone the thanksgiving service, to ensure Iraq's complete compliance with a tough ceasefire. The Americans

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allay doubts

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MPs want backing for rebels but oppose military intervention

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH MPs from all sides have been pressing for action to help the Kurds, they are opposed to the UN Hussein's regime, guarantees the UN and its allies address the security of Iraq. A consensus exists for the UN to take the initiative to undertake a humanitarian mission. While most who have been voicing calls for UN and action to help the sides reaching an agreement, several of the Americans and allies should take action against Saddam's if they interfered with humanitarian relief.

Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, one in arguing that there is a basis for America to support the UN for the right to down helicopter gunships where they attacked. "They could do so on the basis that they were degrading the ceasefire," he said. He said, however, that any military intervention would be a permanent land. Washington said that America and the UN should call for a ceasefire, and that economic sanctions should remain in place until the world community was satisfied it was not killing its civilian population. David Howell, the chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, said America should have intervened militarily three weeks ago. Washington and its allies should stop the withdrawal of troops from the region, and postpone the thanksgiving service, to ensure Iraq's complete compliance with a tough ceasefire. The Americans

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Cry for help: a Kurdish protester outside the Iraqi embassy in London yesterday

EMBASSY PROTEST

West is urged to act

By ALICE THOMSON

FORTY Kurdish men and women went on hunger strike outside the American embassy in London yesterday to highlight the plight of their people fleeing from President Saddam Hussein's forces in Iraq. They have vowed to continue until the West takes action to protect up to one million Kurds.

The hunger strikers, surrounded by friends and relatives, huddled in the wind and rain opposite the embassy in Grosvenor Square. "The Kurdish people who are fleeing face far worse conditions than these," said Farhad Alaskin, aged 24. "They are starving and freezing to death and we must show our solidarity with them. We will carry on to the death if necessary."

They handed in two letters to the embassy addressed to President Bush and the ambassador. About 30 demonstrators went on to protest outside the Iraqi embassy, Solar Bapir, aged 26, a spokesman for the group, said. "We demand they stop the genocide our people are facing in the mountains under constant bombardment and with temperatures below zero."

AID PLEA

Relief agencies put onus on UN

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH aid agencies reaffirmed yesterday that they will be powerless to help millions of Kurds fleeing Iraq unless the United Nations assumes responsibility for the relief operation.

The Save the Children Fund, which has sent two convoys of emergency relief supplies to the civilian population in Baghdad, yesterday sent its Middle East director, Martin Griffiths, to Turkey. A spokesman said: "We hope to be in a position to have a team in Kurdistan imminently, but we are likely to be the only British agency actually there."

Oxfam yesterday reiterated an offer to empty its emergency stores to aid the Kurds. The organisation has immediately available 20,000 blankets, 4,000 shelters with room for ten people, plastic sheeting and water equipment. The package, worth £1.2 million, was first offered to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on Wednesday, but without response.

From April 2nd, calling your dear ones won't be quite so well, dear. We're making a 6% reduction, on average, in the cost of UK telephone calls. That means some good news for those who want to whisper sweet nothings for rather less. At the same time we're making a charge of 44.4p for Directory Enquiries, so only those who use the service will pay. And it'll still be free from public payphones as well as for blind people and those with medical conditions or disabilities which prevent them from using the Phone Book. Give us a call, free, on 0800 700 200, any time from 8am to 8pm, and we'll send you more details. Of course, your phone calls will still mean as much as ever. They just won't cost as much, that's all.

Spend a little less on someone you love.

We've cut the cost of UK phone calls by about 6%.

BT

Richard Morrison

Make it the ColiGarden

The Royal Opera House seems permanently under siege. Its finances totter towards disaster, even as it eats up £15 million of annual public subsidy and pushes its top ticket prices over £100. It makes strenuous efforts to raise corporate sponsorship, then some of its most loyal supporters among the captains of industry vent wounding opinions about it in print.

To cut costs, Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, makes some staff redundant, then suffers the indignity of being handed a petition, including the signatures of Paul Findlay, the ROH's own opera director, and Jeffrey Tate, principal conductor, demanding the reinstatement of the press director. A minor incident, perhaps, but it typifies the feeling of helplessness that the once-bulky Mr Isaacs exudes. And the proposed extension of backstage facilities has run into so many planning problems that the closure of the ROH for rebuilding has been postponed until 1995 or 1996.

If the Royal Opera's productions were scintillating, audiences and critics would feel happier defending the company's financial record. There might even be a lobby agitating to give it the kind of super-subsidy – two or three times that of Covent Garden – that Milan, Munich, Vienna and Paris bestow on their opera houses. But the critical reaction to a parade of borrowed or resuscitated productions has been hostile.

Meanwhile, the departure soon of Peter Jonas from English National Opera to run Munich's opera house has led to renewed comparisons of Covent Garden with the Coliseum.

The ENO also has severe money problems – Mr Jonas's touching begging-bowl appearances on the stage apparently do little to stem its rising deficit – but ENO has shown a spirit of adventure, stuck to clear artistic policies, marketed aggressively and nurtured new musical and directorial talents.

ENO fits happily into the modern operatic world. This world accepts that the operatic experience can easily encompass famous tenors belting out "Nessun Dorma" in huge arenas and an interpretation of Don Giovanni as a New York drug-pusher (the education offered by BBC 2 on Easter Monday). Anything goes, in other words, provided it is done with panache. But Covent Garden has forgotten what panache is. Nor will it rediscover that quality until somebody slices through the Gordian knot that the ROH management has made of its problems.

What does this involve? First, an acknowledgement that since the amount of public subsidy devoted to opera is not going to increase substantially, and since money for the excellent regional opera companies must not be cut, there is no likelihood that Covent Garden or ENO will ever be funded at a level anywhere near that of Vienna or Munich. As long as these theatres struggle to give London around 700 opera and ballet performances a year, they will be locked into a spiral of shoddiness. What Mr Jonas has

accomplished so brilliantly at ENO has been more a spiral-defying sleight-of-hand than a permanent improvement in the company's wellbeing.

But does London need 700 performances a year? Milan, a financial opera city, makes do with about 125. And now that surtitles are such an accepted feature in the opera house, is there any justification for maintaining a company such as ENO, all of whose works are sung in English? Moreover, since the Coliseum has the best ballet stage in London, why is it monopolised by an opera company for 11 months of the year, while the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet exist in mutual acrimony at Covent Garden?

The way forward should be apparent. If the Royal Opera edges towards the conclusion that it makes sense to nurture an ensemble of young, relatively inexperienced British singers, and if ENO decides that it should use surtitles and give its patrons the benefit of Italian vowel-sounds in Italian music, the two companies will inevitably become less and less distinguishable.

So perhaps they should become one company, based at Covent Garden. Then the Coliseum (which, in any case, is leased to ENO only until 1996) could become the home of the Royal Ballet and a receiving house for the other great dance companies of the world.

Some will say it would be ludicrous deliberately to cut opera provision in London after 45 years of painstakingly building it up. But drastic cuts are already being made in terms of rehearsal time, new productions, budgets and regular appearances by internationally renowned singers and conductors.

Which is more important, quality or quantity? The British director Graham Vick told *The Times* he was given a budget of £750,000 to stage Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny* in Florence last summer, compared with a £65,000 budget to stage Stephen Oliver's new opera *Timon of Athens* at the Coliseum.

If a merger is unpalatable, the ROH management should at least regard the 1995 closure of Covent Garden as an opportunity to sweep away all the costly inflexibilities of the present company. London has so many superb freelance musicians and singers that no opera company need shackle itself to a permanent salaried orchestra and chorus. Furthermore, all opera written before 1830 ought to be performed on period instruments: that is what the public increasingly expects (and Glyndebourne triumphantly provides). This implies recruiting different players for different repertoires. Nor should present-day composers feel compelled – as many do when commissioned to write a new opera – to use the house orchestra. The dearth of good new operas must partly be attributed to the rigidities of the opera house.

But here we stray into a serious artistic discussion that is pointless until somebody grasps the nettle of radical reform in the opera house. Glück did it in the 18th century, Wagner in the 19th. For the 20th, time is fast running out.

...and moreover

JOE JOSEPH

I don't mean to gloat or to embarrass those theatre impresarios and Arts Council professionals who are paid heaps to do this sort of thing, but I think I may have hit upon a cure for the West End's headaches.

On Sunday, actors, directors and set designers will try to keep up pretences when they dish out the Olivier Awards to each other at the National Theatre. But the smiles will not be able to hide the spreading sickness. Bernard Levin, on this very page, wrote recently: "At least nineteen plays out of twenty in the London theatre at any given time should, and in a perfect world would, be classified as rubbish... not to say garbage, offal, trash, bilge and Not Wanted On Voyage."

Bernard was, for some reason, pulling his punches that day. But flick through any recent newspaper and the lament is everywhere: the same plays today are awful, there is nobody to take over the quill from Tim Rice, only a fool would prefer to sit through two acts with only a warm gin and tonic in between than to spend the evening counting all the dots on his TV screen. *The Sunday Telegraph*, usually so chirpy, has not seen the theatre in such a mess "since the Puritans ordered the suppression of players in 1642".

And it's not just the West End. The artistic directors of the Chichester Festival Theatre and the Bristol Old Vic have just resigned. The Almeida in Isling-

ton, England's most famous fringe theatre, is closing.

Theatre bigwigs (Andrew Lloyd Webber at least) long ago learned the wisdom of the Hollywood adage, "If you have a message, send it Western Union". If the West End is ready to pick up another dip from the poolside of Los Angeles, it only need look at the box-office evidence to see that it is not original screenplays that draw cinema audiences by the million, but sequels of established hits. The goldmines are *Godfather III*, *Diehard II*, *Rocky XVII*.

So if the West End is ready to listen to advice, you can start planning your evenings around a retextured Shaftesbury Avenue schedule. Here is how things stand as we go to press. Samuel Beckett's timeless masterpiece, *Still Waiting for Godot*, and *Extra Time* (his extended version of *Endgame*) are likely to steal the thunder of the coming season. But there will be more than enough to suit all tastes. Look forward to the curtain rising on: *The Bald Prima Donna Meets the Barber of Seville* – Ionesco re-establishes himself among the masters of cutting humour.

A Doll's House: *The Nightmare Continues* – chilling suspense from Ibsen, the King of Horror. And *The Birthday Party*: Another Year, Another Story.

Realising that if there is one thing more dramatic than un-

What is now going on in Iraq bears a close resemblance to what happened in Hungary in 1956. In both cases the West, led by America, encouraged people to rise up against the oppressors and then stood by while the oppressors crushed them.

In both cases, the theatre of the United Nations was used to lend some decorum to the betrayal. In 1956 an American-backed draft resolution calling for a Soviet withdrawal from Hungary was vetoed by the Soviet Union in the Security Council. The Eisenhower administration then claimed that it had tried to help Hungary, and that the UN, "paralysed by the Soviet veto", had failed it.

Over Iraq, there is unity in the Security Council, but it is unity in favour of letting Saddam get on with crushing all the rebel forces. Resolution 687, carried by the Security Council on Wednesday, fails even to mention the Kurds, whose last strongholds were falling as the resolution was being carried.

The resolution aims at depriving Iraq of "weapons of mass destruction", but Saddam can destroy the Kurds with conventional weapons, and is doing so. The betrayal of the rebels to the tyrant in Baghdad is even more shameful than the betrayal of the Hungarians. The Eisenhower government was recklessly irresponsible in its rhetoric about "pushing back the Iron Curtain", but its failure to follow up that rhetoric was understandable, since doing so might have led to a third world war. In the case of Iraq, no commensurate risk is involved. The tyrant crushing the Kurds is a beaten tyrant. He is able to crush them only because he has the tacit permission of those who have beaten him.

It is suggested that it was politically and/or militarily impossible to help the Kurds and Shias. It was not impossible; the allies simply decided not to. Militarily, the allies, with complete control of Iraqi air space, could have ordered Saddam Hussein's forces to stay out of, or withdraw from, the territories which had rebelled. Saddam was in no position to ignore such an order.

Politically, the Security Council could have ordered free elections throughout Iraq, under UN supervision, and prohibited Saddam from interfering. It is argued that anything of this kind would constitute "intervention in Iraq's

Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that the West can help the Kurds while preserving a united Iraq



Escape by any means: Kurdish victims of Western power politics head for Turkey

internal affairs", and is therefore unthinkable. It is really quite thinkable: it was done after the defeat of the German and Japanese tyrannies at the end of the second world war, and it worked rather well. A democratic Iraq – the first democracy in the Arab world – was a possibility after Saddam's defeat. The allies and the UN preferred to stick with Saddam.

The allied thinking that has led to the destruction of the Kurdish and Shia rebels is the same thinking that led to the invasion of Kuwait. This is the doctrine, dear to the State Department and the Foreign Office, that a strong Iraq is in the interests of the West. Thus the West cultivated and

armed Saddam and encouraged him to believe that he could literally get away with murder. In Kuwait, he found, finally, that he could not get away with it, yet now he can treat his Iraqi subjects any way he likes, with Western collusion and the acquiescence of the UN. The UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, has even argued that the allies are guilty of too much intervention in Iraq's internal affairs. The Kurds will hardly agree.

The received doctrine – though one that is hardly ever explicitly formulated – is that unless the military ruler of Iraq has a free hand to crush Iraq's "minorities" (who actually constitute a majority), Iraq will break up. This would

alter the balance of power in the region in undesirable ways, notably by expanding the power of Iran. The Western officials who hold this view wish the Iraqi army would get itself a leader other than Saddam, if only for appearances' sake. But if it has to be Saddam, well, better that he should crush the rebels than that Iraq should be allowed to break up.

Realpolitik, when it attains really repulsive proportions, as in this case, often turns out to be silly. The "either/or" that is posited – either a free hand for Saddam Hussein or the break-up of Iraq – is a false dichotomy. If the allies had restrained Saddam as they could and should have done, they would have been in a

position to insist on the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq under a post-Saddam government. The Kurdish and Shia people – once dependent on al protection – would be in position to insist on access against the will of the allies.

In any case, there is no reason to suppose these people are bent on secession, if alternative is a reasonable proportionate say in national affairs. But I fear that the State Department and Foreign Office realpolitik that has led to the destruction of the Kurdish Shia rebels actually prefers idea of a military strong putting down "minorities" more civilised arrangements might "weaken Iraq".

The logic which today Saddam back in the die would have. Hitler in power at the of the second world war, for sake of "a strong Germany" the balance of power. And was indeed such a school thought. The difference is the time it has prevailed.

President Bush may not return to the earlier policy towards Saddam. The spectre of the defeated tyrant mass Iraqis while the victorious look on must be a profound repulsive to many Americans. American public takes a moral view of foreign policy the European democracies. I not be easy to explain to a which saw Saddam's treatment Kuwait as morally outrageous why his treatment of the Kurds is acceptable.

The vast exodus of Kurds Iraq bears stark witness to that Saddam is the enemy of people. Letting him loose a them was a crime against humanity. The Kurdish refugees are testimony against the Bush administration's policy. This will tarnish Bush's great victory, considerations sometimes k abrupt changes in policy, co to the advice of the duplicitous merchants of realpolitik. I this will prove to be so in the – and Mr Bush's reference new look" at Iraq this week be a hint of radical change come. But it will come too! save the hundreds of thousands perhaps millions, of Iraqi ci who are already victims of ern realpolitik.

Some may object but might is right

Philip Howard calls up his auxiliaries to put a grammatical confusion to flight

Might can sometimes be right. It is grammatically right in sentences referring to past possibilities that did not happen. But "might" is the forgotten word in the hot-air industries of modern journalism and public blarney on the radio and television. People use may, where might would have been right. So they end up writing nonsense. For example: "The Scud missile may have caused heavy casualties, if it had not been intercepted." But it was intercepted, and there were no casualties. "Schoenberg may never have gone atonal but for the break-up of his marriage." But he did definitely go atonal, poor chap. Might.

"I am grateful for his intervention, without which they may have remained in the refugee camp indefinitely." But they have got out of the refugee camp. No may about it. Might. "If President Galtieri had not invaded, then eventually the islands may have fallen into their lap." But they haven't, and there is no prospect of their doing so in the foreseeable future. No may about the matter it. Might.

May and might are known in the trade of modern grammarians as modal auxiliaries, that is, little bricks that modify the mood of a verb. English is notably rich in them: can, could, may, might, must, need to, have to, ought to, should, would, shall. By building precisely with our modal auxiliaries, English-users can express a very wide range of possibility, permission, ability, prediction, obligation, compulsion, velocity, and other moods. He might have been captured by the Iraqis – but he wasn't. He may have been captured by the Iraqis – it is possible.

The principal meanings of the pair of modal auxiliaries, may and might, are possibility, permission, and wishing. May all your problems be grammatical! Might expresses a more remote possibility than may, but there is some overlap. In the following sentence, either modal auxiliary will do, and there is only a tiny difference in meaning: I may/might have met her, but I can't remember. The confusion arises between may and might when we are talking about the past. If at the time of writing or speaking about the past, the facts are still unknown, either may or might will do, and they mean almost the same. Graham Greene: "For all we knew we were both bastards, although of course there might have been a ceremony." Evelyn Waugh: "As they all wore so many different clothes of identically the same kind, there may have been several more or several less." However, if there is no longer uncertainty about the past event, or the matter was never put to the

test, and it did not happen, might is right, and may is misleading, and irritating, even erroneous: A Pentagon spokesman said that if a fire break had been constructed, the "difficult problems which eventually came about may have been avoided".

Here is Evelyn Waugh, getting his mights right: "If that had come ten days ago my whole life might have been different." If that sentence were being written today in a newspaper, or uttered on a chat show, it would probably come out as: "My whole life may have been different." What can we deduce from the modern confusion between may and might referring to the past? That the young don't learn any grammar any more, or that English has gone down the plug-hole? Poppycock. The cure for imagining that there was some golden age of grammar is to read and note the wide variations of grammatical

practice in even the best writ the past.

A vastly wider range of are writing, being published being publicly broadcast, than ever before. This is both for the language an society, though not for the that make the paper. In scramble, we are not making use of the great variety afford the modal auxiliaries of Engl we need to continue to mak fine distinction between may might in the past tense, we remember might, or find other way of making the distinction. Otherwise the may/ distinction may fade away. I happened to other old gram cal forms in English, such a dual number we once used to two of something, and all our case endings. English vived, and flourished, and just right for the purposes of new users.

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Our man within

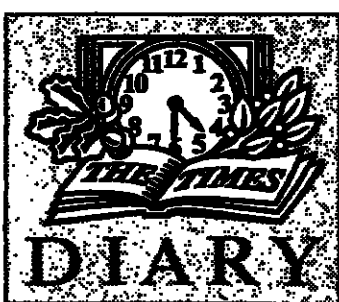
Two fascinating documents concerning Graham Greene's newspaper career have emerged from *The Times* archives: his 1925 application form for a job "sub-editing and leader writing" and his letter of resignation four years later. Both are in his famous small, fastidious hand, although curiously someone has scrawled across the application form "Roman Catholic" (subsequently crossed out).

In the resignation letter, Greene wrote: "My publisher Heinemann, has offered me £550 a year for two years in advance of royalties on my next book if I will do nothing else but write and as I feel that my chief ambition lies in that direction, I have decided to accept the offer." This was far more than Greene was earning at *The Times*, although by 1929 his salary had risen to a not inconsiderable 10 guineas a week.

Greene went on: "There is of course a risk, but as my present book has earned nearly £800 and has only just been published in America, I think that the risk is not too great." The book was *The Man Within*, his first novel, which according to Leslie Smith, a contemporary on *The Times*, was written largely in room two of the paper's Printing House Square offices. "He actually began his career as a novelist in that room."

Greene's rise on the paper was swift. "He learned quickly and is now one of our best sub-editors," wrote George Anderson, the senior sub, in March 1929. Greene took over the court page during the holiday of its regular editor ("a deadly dull job with heaps of scope for blunders," he wrote to his mother) and also stood in for the letters editor, a post which was promised him in time.

He clearly enjoyed his years on



The Times. In his resignation letter he wrote: "It will be a great wrench for me to leave and I hope that I may be able to retain some small connection with the paper by means of court page articles. Mr Brunwell has been kind enough to suggest that I should occasionally try my hand at light leaders." Elsewhere, Greene wrote of the ideal arrangement, under which



the paper employed him during his "hours of fatigue", from 4pm to midnight, enabling him to do his own work in the morning when "still fresh".

The Times did not let its rising star go lightly: he was summoned to see the editor, Geoffrey Daw-

son. "He said he understood that I had written a novel and he congratulated me on its success," wrote Greene. "His wife had demanded a copy from her circulating library. *The Times*, he assured me, would have no objection if I continued to write novels in my spare time." But it was to no avail, and Dawson's irritation at losing so promising a member of staff was obvious. If Greene's mind was really made up, Dawson told him, it was "a rash and unfortunate decision".

Labour members of Humberside county council are off for a weekend at the seaside later this month. While Tory councillors are holding their annual meeting in a rent-free room in the county hall at Beverley, the ruling Labour group has moved its gathering to the *Expanse Hotel* at Bridlington, at a cost to the council estimated at £3,000. The main subject on the agenda, according to council leader Terry Gershy, will be cost-cutting measures to keep down the poll tax.

Lucky star

A rare glimpse into Philip Larkin's very private life will be offered today when his secretary breaks his silence for the first time since his death five years ago. On his instructions, 25 volumes of his diaries were shredded by his companion, Monica Jones, and his secretary, Betty Mackreath, within hours of his death. Neither has spoken about the affair since, but Mackreath has finally agreed to a live interview on BBC's Radio 2.

Some of Larkin's literary encounters are critical of the shredding. Andrew Motion has prevented the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes: that all his other unpublished material should be destroyed. The shredded diaries, he says, would have been a fascinating source and were "a log of balious feelings against himself

and the world". Whether Mackreath is prepared to shed any light on their content remains to be seen; she consented to the interview only because the prods Margaret Garbett, was one of few journalists ever to get close to Larkin. He agreed to be interviewed by her after she discovered they had the same birthday.

Vicious circle

Such is the fame of misforger Tom Keating that first sales of Keating's have started to appear in salerooms. Ever since a 19 Keating version of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* was sold for £8,000 in 1981, Bonham's, the auction house which is organising a Keating's later this year, has been besieged with spurious Keatings. The forgeries come in seven guises: a fake of a Keating's old master, a forgery of one Keating's own individual landscapes, or even pictures that do nothing like Keating's own work but with initials in the bottom corner. "Good painters imitate nature, bad ones spew it up wrote Cervantes. Very bad on imitate the imitators, he might have added.

The Archbishop of York, John Habgood, has set up a working party to investigate the *Tea and Nettle* phenomenon according to an article reproduced in various parish magazines Yorkshire. The working party said to be "particularly disturbed by the apparent effect of the on upon clergy". The more also might have smelt something fish from the references to the Feast of St Tortois, but so many his fallen for the spoof that th Archbishop's office has had to issue an official denial. "This is the kind of juvenile humor that all too frequently mars Christian publications," said a spokesman, who did not elaborate.

students and allows the UN national relief agencies to act in Ankara will be responsible for refugees from exposure and war, so often seen as inward apparently thrown open its Shia Muslims and Kurds in Turkey - member of Nato member of the EC, professing - turns its back and even its thousands of Kurds who are let them in.

ILL-FITTING CAP

POLITICAL ARITHMETIC

Japanese, among others. Ever since these nations found themselves rich, they seem to have believed that they would one day be extinct. Lack of heirs can become a national obsession. Wealth is undoubtedly associated with a fall in the rate of population growth. But prophecies may be self-fulfilling. The French worried for a century about their stagnant birthrate. Once their anxiety waned, the population grew.

Demographic catastrophists are more usually (but rarely more accurately) to be found expounding the dire consequences of over-population. But catastrophism may also feed on the ethnic or religious composition of the population. Northern Ireland used to echo to Protestant warnings of what would happen when the high Catholic birthrate enabled the minority to become a majority. No more has been heard from these prophets since the Catholic birthrate began to approach the Protestant one.

Birthrates fluctuate, as do migration rates. In Israel, Soviet Jewish immigration has falsified the once commonplace prediction that Arabs would soon outnumber Jews. In Britain, the Census Publicity Unit (there is such a thing: the census costs £135 million) claims proudly that "the census of today will be the history of tomorrow." Yet history is only yesterday's politics. Sir William Petty, the 17th-century statistician who created modern demography, called his new science "political arithmetic". Though unintentional, the ambiguity of Petty's term was apposite. Demography may be arithmetical in form, but it is the stuff of politics.

that should feel the heat of accountability on their necks have been offered relief. There are four criteria for Mr Heseltine's capping, on which basis blame for "overspending" must be judged. One reads: "Any increase of more than 7 per cent will be considered an excessive increase if it gives rise to a budget of over 5 per cent above the Standard Spending Assessment." This may make sense to civil servants at the environment department but will make none on the local hustings next month.

The majority of those councils selected for capping were Labour controlled, in particular those identified with the residue of the far left. Lambeth thus figures at the top of the list. But a handful, three, of Tory councils are also included to avoid any suggestion that the exercise is wholly cynical.

In the long term capping represents a fundamental threat to accountability. This year's local budgets were set before the Chancellor introduced his relief scheme. Fear of high poll tax may have caused some councils to keep their spending down this year. Next year's poll tax will start from a much lower base. Left uncapped, councils might feel freer to raise the poll tax and spend more. With the Treasury as determined as ever to prevent this, the government's reaction will be to charge cap more councils, and to do so more fiercely. Central government will be ever more saddled with responsibility for local spending levels.

"To extend the cap" a writer in *The Times* said in May 1990 "increases the risk of legal challenge. Furthermore to design such a system effectively would negate accountability and be an act of centralised political power outside our experience. On these grounds alone it should be resisted." Wise words, written by the then Tory backbencher, Michael Heseltine. If next year he has to eat them, it will be because this year he pandered to his party and Treasury prejudice by carrying on capping.

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

From Mr F. W. J. Whetstone

From the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Sir, Why does international opinion respond so differently to the Kurds and the Palestinians? Why is a homeland for the Palestinians acknowledged, a homeland for the Kurds not on the agenda?

As a member of a party which has consistently criticised Israel for its action in the West Bank and reluctance to contemplate a settlement which would involve giving up the West Bank and Gaza to create a Palestinian homeland, I have to say that if Israel had taken action against the Palestinians a hundredth as savage as Saddam Hussein has taken against the Kurds there would have been international

Provisions that might allow a legitimate intervention

Children's evidence

Where criminal charges are laid against adults who have abused children the court hearing often occurs months or even years after the event. Video recordings made early in the investigation could certainly reduce the distress of the child witness but the children also need help and support during the long waiting period.

Once a charge is laid and the evidence-in-chief recorded the child, and the family, need therapeutic help and the child needs to be prepared for the ordeal of the court proceedings. Both can be achieved without prejudice to the rights of the accused if there is good liaison between the police, the courts and the helping agencies.

In an ideal world the supporting professionals might be appointed by and be responsible to the court.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BRANDON
(Postgraduate Dean),
University of Leicester,
School of Medicine,
Leicester Royal Infirmary,
PO Box 65, Leicester LE2 7LX.

Are the terrified Kurdish refugees at the Turkish border to be denied proper help or indeed safety because the UN charter and the rules of international law prohibit interference in the internal affairs of a nation-state?

This need not be so. The UN coalition should assume the role it adopted in the 1960-1 Congo crisis. Iraq should no longer be regarded as a normal state and the UN can and must act to prevent it from committing acts of genocide.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS
(Director),
Institute of Economic and
Political Studies,
18 Warkworth Street, Cambridge.
April 4.

might allow a legitimate intervention

Definition set aside

Mentally ill in court

From the Chairman of the Criminal Law Solicitors Association and others

Sir, Home Office circular 66/90, recently issued nationwide to all crown court judges, clerks to justices and 4,000 court and police-station duty solicitors, states that "It is the government's policy to divert mentally-disordered persons from the criminal justice system in cases where the public interest does not require their prosecution". In order to assist courts in their decision-making, the circular asks court clerks to make arrangements for speedy access to professional advice and recommends the use of court psychiatric assessments.

In the last two years, "duty" psychiatrists have been operating on a voluntary ad hoc basis, with minimal facilities at three central London courts. Recent analysis shows that even this limited service has made significant savings in public funds, by expediting the transfer of mentally-ill defendants from prison to hospital. The humanitarian benefits, including

From Mr S. R. MAMDANI
Sir, I consider your editorial (April 2) difficult to digest. How could a civilised society condone the allied action in reinstating an undemocratic, unelected dictatorship in Kuwait and at the same time demonstrate apathy at the plight of innocent women and children being massacred in Iraq?
One can argue that the allied forces should not intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq, but in the past the Americans have actively interfered in the internal affairs of independent sovereign countries.
Yours faithfully,
S. R. MAMDANI,
94 Kenmore Avenue,
Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.
April 3.

mate intervention

or retailer, but that does not apply here, either.

the prevention of potential prison suicides are obvious.

We consider that the development of this initiative, which is also commended in the Woolf report, on a selective (perhaps group) basis, is the best way to use financial and human resources to achieve the government's objective. Co-ordination of national and local agencies will be required, plus the establishment of adequate facilities at court and the recruitment of sufficient psychiatrists, both centrally funded.

Implementation on those lines should produce rapid savings of public money and private misery. If the Home Office and the Department of Health would be prepared to fund a working party for this purpose, representatives of our organisations would willingly serve on it.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY BAYES, Chairman,
Criminal Law Solicitors Association,
GILLIAN BABINGTON-BROWNE
(President, London Criminal Courts
Solicitors Association),
MICHAEL BURDETT
(Member, Legal Aid Board Duty
Solicitors Committee),
107/113 Kings Cross Road, WC1.

From the General Secretary of the

Union subscriptions

**From the General Secretary
of the TUC**

Sir, Your report headed "Will-
urges 10% rise in union subs to
avoid ruin" (later editions, April 4)
misrepresents the TUC's position in
an important way. Our advice to
unions concerning increases in
subscription rates is intended to
apply for 1992 and not this year.
There would be no question there-
fore of encouraging unions to raise
subscriptions substantially for a
second time in four months, as you
state.

I would also dispute your assertion that our plans are "an attempt to head off financial ruin". By international standards, Britain's unions have been underfunded for many years. Competition between unions and membership losses in recent years have also created some problems, but our advice is intended to improve the financial position of unions rather than avert any imminent crisis.

Some unions do have problems but overall the movement is far from ruin and indeed has weathered successive recessions far better than many industries.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN WILLIS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
April 4.

Loss of bulk carrier

From Ms Joan Walley, MP for Stoke on Trent North (Labour)

Sir, It is totally deplorable that the Department of Transport will not open the enquiry into the loss of the Derbyshire. The Derbyshire, a bulk carrier, was lost without trace and since its sinking in 1980 in the western Pacific there has been constant concern about the cause of its loss.

I am shocked by the secretary of state's announcement on March 25, without any regard to the petition signed by over 75,000 people, the early day motion signed by a significant number of MPs and representations made by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

The conclusions of the department's original investigation have been fundamentally challenged by new scientific evidence and television pictures. The enquiry must be reopened. I believe this to be vital for future shipping safety and for justice to be given to the relatives of the 44 people who died.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN WALLEY
(Shadow transport minister),
House of Commons.
March 27.

Missing an hour

From Miss Rosalind Rawnsley
Sir, in this small village we were

Sir, In this small village we were grateful for an earlier start to Easter (letters, March 30, April 3). It shortened the all-night vigil by one hour, and did not prevent nearly 30 joining the candlelit procession to the vicarage garden for dawn communion (and bonfire) at 6am BST (5am GMT).

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND RAWNSLEY,
Wyken Cottage, Worfield,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
April 4

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 4: The Duchess of York left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for Italy.

Her Royal Highness opened the Bologna International Book Fair this afternoon.

Miss Lucy Manners, Captain Neil Blair, R.N. and Mr. Geoffrey Crawford were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 4: The Prince Edward, Trustee, today gave a lunch for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 4: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today opened the new Stand at Aintree Racecourse.

The Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 4: The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, the Isaac Newton Trust, chaired meetings of the Trustees and met some of the scholars supported by the Trusts at the University of Cambridge.

His Royal Highness attended a dinner given by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk

(Mr. Timothy Colman) for the Norfolk Lieutenant at the Town Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Commander Alistair Watson, R.N. was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Grand President, St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade, this afternoon opened the new Berkshire County Headquarters at Woodley, Reading.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire (Mr. John Henderson).

The Hon. Mrs. Wills was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 4: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St. John, this morning received Dr. Anthony Blowers, Director-General of St. John Ambulance.

YORK HOUSE
April 4: The Duchess of Kent, Trustee of the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund, this evening attended a Soiree at the Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2.

Mrs Peter Willmot-Sirwell was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward will attend a dinner given by the Chairman of Berkshire County Council at the Guildhall, Windsor, at 7.35 in honour of those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Berkshire.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the Diocese of Reading Project of Spelthorne Borough Council, 1 Rose Gardens, Stanwell, Surrey, at 11.30; open the Central Southern England branch of the Young Archaeologists Club, 4-10 London Road, Basingstoke, at 2.45; and as Grand Prior of the Order of St. John, will visit the Guildford branch of St. John Ambulance at 4.15.

Birthdays today
Professor John Albery, master, University College, Oxford, 55; Miss Jane Asher, actress, 28; Michael Bryant, actor, 63; Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Altery, 75; Mr Tom Finney, footballer, 69; Lady (Nigel) Fisher, founder, Women's Carriage Trust, 70; Dr John Gilbert, MP, 68; Mr Arthur Hailey, author, 71; Mr Nigel Hawthorne, actor, 62; Sir Douglas Henley, former Auditor General, 72; Professor Denis Lawton, former director, London University Institute of Education, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Livesey, 55; Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, astronomer, 56; Mr Robert E. McKee, chairman and managing-director, Conoco (UK), 45; Professor

Peter Moore, former principal, London Business School, 63; Mr Stanley Orme, MP, 68; Mr Gregory Peck, actor, 75; Miss Jennifer Peony, ballerina, 45; General Colin Powell, chairman, American Joint Chiefs of Staff, 54; Mr Brian Rose, jockey, 51.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Malmesbury, Wilts, 1588; Jean Honoré Fragonard, painter, Grasse, France, 1732; Sir Henry Havelock, general, relieved Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, Sunderland, 1795; Joseph Lister, Baron Lister, surgeon, founder of antiseptic medicine, Upton, Essex, 1827; Algisius, Swiss-born, London, 1837; Spencer Tracy, actor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1900; Herbert von Karajan, conductor, Salzburg, 1908.

DEATHS: William Brouncker, 3rd Viscount Brouncker, mathematician, first president of the Royal Society, 1627; Lord 1684; Edward Young, poet, Wexham, Herts, 1766; Georges-Jacques Danton, executed, Paris, 1794; Robert Raikes, pioneer of Sunday schools, Gloucester, 1811; Paul Vidal de la Blache, geographer, Tamaris-sur-Mer, 1918; George Edward Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, archaeologist, Cairo, 1923; Douglas MacArthur, US army general, Washington, 1964; Howard Hughes, manufacturer, aviator and film producer, on flight to Houston, Texas, 1976; Sir Arthur Harris, Marshal of the RAF, Goring, Oxford, 1984.

Marriages

The Hon J.H.M. Bruce and Miss L.J. West. A service of blessing was held yesterday at St. George's, Hanover Square, after the marriage of the Hon James Bruce, second son of Lord and Lady Aberdare, to Miss Lucinda West, only daughter of Mr Richard West and Mrs Jane West. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated.

Mr G.A.M. Begg and Mrs S.W. Winkill. The marriage took place on March 25, 1991, between Gordon Begg and Sandra Winkill, both of St Andrews.

Mr C.C.W. Dunn and Miss A.P. Reeve. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 30, at St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke, of Mr Charles Dunn, only son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Dunn, and Miss Alexandra Reeve, eldest daughter of Mr John Reeve and of Mrs William Hare. The Rev Keith Vivian officiated assisted by Dom Alexander George.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr William Hare, was attended by Emily Hare, Victoria Hare, Kate Boxer, Olivia Boxer, Archibald Leeming and Emily-Rose Leeming.

A reception was held at the bride's home and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

Sir Thomas Beecham, Bt, CH
A service of commemoration for Sir Thomas Beecham, Bt, CH, conducted by the Rev

Desmond Parsons, will be held at St Peter's Church, Limsfield, Surrey, on Monday, April 29, at 1 p.m. Following the service, Sir Thomas's remains will be reinterred in the churchyard. As seating accommodation in the church is limited, tickets are required for the service.

Applications should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and sent to: The Administrator, Denton House, Denton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, YO20 0AA. Telephone enquiries should be made to 098 686 780.

Lakes road rejected
The Lake District special planning board yesterday rejected an application by Cumbria county council for a £2.5 million road to be built round part of Ambleside. The Rothay Link was intended to join the main A591 with the A593 Conistone road to reduce congestion at Waterhead, but the Friends of the Lake District had mounted a national campaign against it and other conservation bodies had also objected.

The board's development control committee had recommended refusal on the ground that any traffic benefits were outweighed by the adverse environmental impact. The board felt that, in the interests of conserving the park, the scheme should be turned down.

Oil millionaire's coin collection sold intact

By JOHN SHAW

A COLLECTION of 8,500 Islamic coins representing all the major dynasties from Spain to India sold in one lot for £165,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

The had belonged to Nelson Bunker Hunt, an oil millionaire from Texas, who, with his brother, tried to corner the world market in silver in the Eighties. But the market collapsed and they incurred heavy losses. Nelson Bunker Hunt's coin collections are among the assets being sold to pay creditors.

A series of sales in New York has so far raised \$29.4 million (£15.2 million). Yesterday's Islamic collection went to an anonymous buyer for under the pre-sale estimate of £200,000-£300,000. Tom Edna, a member of the firm's coin department, said after-

wards: "It was a notable collection but the market is still uneasy after the Gulf war." The final sales of coins from the Hunt collections will take place in New York on June 19-21.

At yesterday's sale, Viscount Wimbome's 68-lot collection of Greek coins sold on mid-estimate at £288,090. A decadrachm of Syracuse by Euclatides, circa 400BC, believed to be "victory coinage" struck to mark the defeat of the Carthaginian forces sold on mid-estimate at £17,600.

A theatrical £1 million note, a copy of the traditional Bank of England "white note" made for the film "The Million Pound Note" in the Sixties went for £1,045 to a Spanish dealer. The sale made a total of £1,011,574 with 6.49 per cent unsold.

OBITUARIES

MAX FRISCH

Max Frisch, Swiss playwright and novelist, died at his home in Zurich yesterday aged 79. He was born on May 15, 1911.

WITH his contemporary, Friedrich Dürrenmatt (who died last December), Max Frisch did much to dispel the image of the Swiss on the international stage as "typical Germans who escaped two world wars" — though this was an aspect of being Swiss which concerned him throughout his creative life and which permeates his work. Thus, in plays such as *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*, known in Britain as *The Fire Raisers* and in the United States as *The Fire Bugs*, the bourgeois protagonist Biedermann is an example of precisely that form of moral flamenco which Frisch deplores among his countrymen. When threatened by an evil in the form of two sinister thugs who are patently arsonists, he is incapable of summoning the aid which is readily at hand and actually aids and abets the destruction by fire of himself, his household and his city.

This harsh view of an impotent neutrality about unpleasant external threats pointed obvious lessons to be learned from the Nazi takeover of Germany in 1933 and was inspired by Bebes' forced acceptance of the communist coup which took over Czechoslovakia in 1948. It was characteristic of a good deal of Frisch's work but he would never have achieved the international reputation he so patently deserved had his preoccupation been only with the Swiss "predicament" as a social and political attitude. At the core of Frisch's work lies something more profound than a critique of those tendencies which make havoc on each other. In his finest works, such as the play *Andorra* or the novel *Stiller* (tr. *I'm Not Stiller*), Frisch raises questions about the nature of human identity itself and whether modern man can do anything to make his humanity prevail against manipulation by external and evil influences. In its exploration of these fundamental issues *Andorra* is unsurpassed by any post-war European drama.

Max Frisch was born in Zurich, the youngest of the three children of Franz Frisch, an architect. He was educated at the Kantonale Realschule in Zurich and then went on to study philology at Zurich University. But his father's premature death forced him to abandon his studies and for the next three years he earned a living as a freelance journalist, writing mainly about sport and travelling throughout Europe, principally in Italy and the Balkans, but also further afield.

In the mid-1930s, however, he went back to study, this time as an

architect at Zurich's Technische Hochschule. After getting his diploma in 1941 he practised as an architect and had a good deal of success in obtaining important commissions. His best-known work in this sphere is the design and layout of the Zurich Recreational Park.

During the war Frisch was called up into the Swiss army and was on duty with the frontier forces. This experience tended to confirm him in his view that Switzerland's decision to remain neutral was a matter more of lack than judgment, and that it reflected a lack of commitment rather than a moral statement. Nevertheless Switzerland's neutral position did give him a unique vantage point from which to view the events of a war raging outside its borders.

Frisch had already begun writing. The novel of 1934, *Jürg Reinhart*, was an autobiographical essay and gave no particular hint of what was to come. During the war Frisch had met Brecht while the latter was in Switzerland and the two had become friends. In 1944 Frisch wrote *Santa Cruz*, which deals with marriage and freedom, but the influence of Brecht is noticeable in *Als der Krieg zu Ende war* (1949) known in Britain as *When the War was Over*. Though *Santa Cruz* is, like its successor *Die chinesische Mauer* (1947), firmly and unapologetically argued in a way which indicates a qualitative advance on Frisch's early manner, *Als der Krieg zu Ende war* goes further in using the Brechtian technique of alienation, when the heroine steps outside her role and comments objectively upon her performance in life. Brecht was to be useful to Frisch but never led him into pale pastiche. Brecht appreciated this even while accepting himself as a mentor from the technical point of view. "What Frisch thinks is his own business," he said.

These were followed in 1951 by *Graf Oederland* (Count Oederland), a twice-revised work which reached England as *Edge of Reason*, a translation of its third version. *Count Oederland* (which is a modern treatment of a German fairy tale), is the story of a little solicitor who, by overthrowing dictatorial power, finds himself exercising it not because he wishes to do so but because everyone believes that the man who overthrows a tyranny must inevitably exercise the power that was the tyrant's. Don Juan, in Frisch's play *Don Juan oder die Liebe der Geometrie* (1953), prefers geometry to women; it is the inescapable pressure of public opinion which makes him a seducer.

Frisch's best-known play, in the English-speaking world at least, is *The Fire Raisers* which appeared in

1957 and was put on in New York as *The Fire Bugs* in 1963. It was written as a radio play, a fact suggested by its spare construction. The Biedermann ("Everyman") of the play knows that fire-raisers are destroying the town in which he lives, but refuses to believe that the villainous, unwanted lodgers who fill his attic with cans of petrol can be in any way involved and suffers for his moral opacity. The play was written with an apparently callous frivolity, which was in harmony with the sceptical spirit of the age, and it did much to establish Frisch's reputation abroad. But a limiting construction tended to be placed on it from a tendency to see it solely in terms of such readily-identifiable targets for moral anger as Nazi Germany or totalitarian communism, and not enough in terms of the problem of what man becomes under certain types of external stimulus.

Andorra (1961) carried the argument about individual identity much further. In the play *Andorra* is a small, mountain-locked one, basking in neutrality. The pettiness and

complacency of this society is broken in on when a neighbouring country, which is both powerful and anti-semitic, poses a threat. In these circumstances the father of the protagonist, Andri, presents his son as a Jew (although he is not) in order to educate his countrymen about the fallacy of racism. But when he tries to enlighten them as to the truth it is too late. Andri has become what he is perceived by others as being, in spite of what he really is. Frisch's characters are fated to be what people think they are although they struggle violently against this destiny until sheer exhaustion reconciles them to it.

These cases are expounded with great theatrical skill and (in spite of the darkness of their subject) a good deal of wit. Frisch was prepared to allow his characters a fine command of rhetoric and willing to exploit all the necessary theatrical tricks to make his point, and it was, perhaps, as much to this as to his intellectual and moral preoccupations, that his plays owed their success outside the German-speaking world.

The slowing down in the frequency of Frisch's dramatic output

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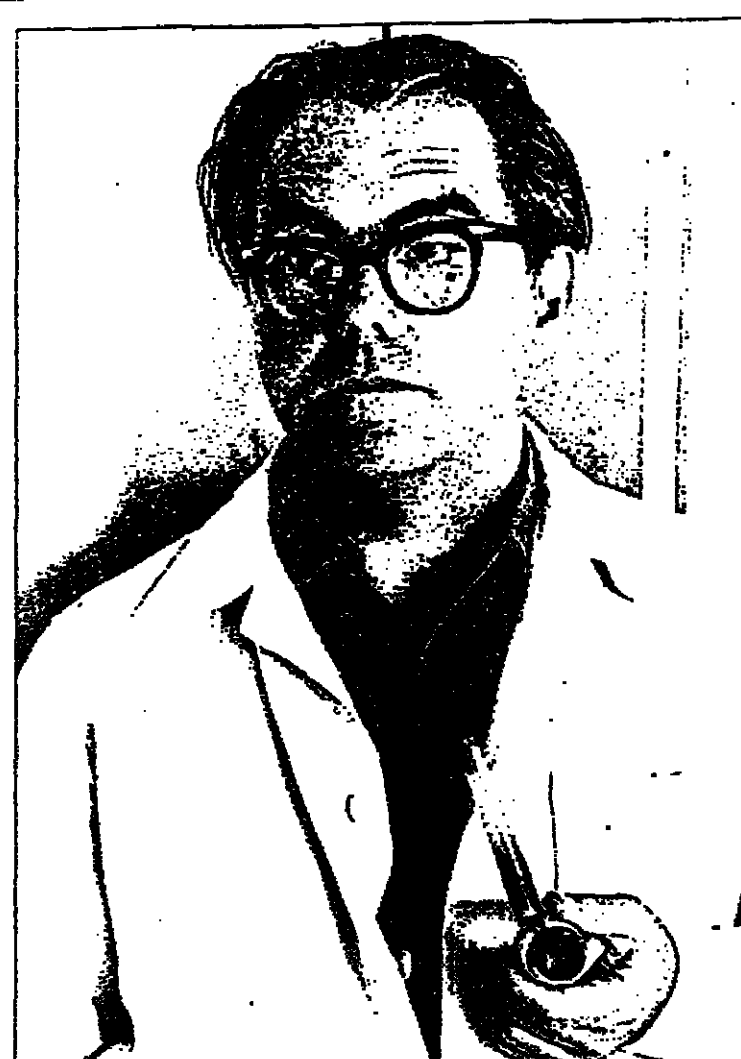
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Trying to take goals to Newcastle

Kate Muir meets
Osvaldo Ardiles, the
smart (and cute)
football manager
who is bringing brain
to Geordie brawn

Here is a useful tip for managers of second division football teams: Osvaldo Ardiles plays chess. He solves the chess problem in *The Times* every day, and applies the game's techniques to football. The transfer from theory to practice in his new job as manager of Newcastle United has not been that easy. Asking footballers to move is one thing. Asking them to think is another.

Mr Ardiles discovered this last Monday, his first day at the St James' Park ground, when his new team were squelched, 2-0, by Bristol Rovers. "I asked them to change their style, to do something they don't usually do, and it was too much. So, it didn't work very well. But it's very early." He wanted some natty footwork and fancy thinking in the midfield, but Newcastle are a typically English long-distance punt and thump team, and there remained a conflict between art and violence.

The new boy is strangely lacking in fear about the forthcoming culture clash and his plans to Latinise Geordie football. At 38, he has been in the game for 20 years, and has capped 42 times for Argentina, and holds a World Cup winner's medal. He played for the Tottenham Hotspur team who won the FA Cup in 1981, and managed Swindon Town for 18 months. "I'm not arrogant about it. I just had an inner belief I was going to be a good manager. If I did not I would not be here."

He was poached from Swindon Town last week and offered a tidy £120,000 a year. But the logic of planting a middle-class former law student from Buenos Aires on the working-class soil of Tyneside is beyond some locals. "He'll never speak Geordie, man," says one United groupie, usefully.

The local newspapers' sports writers staking out the hallways of St James' Park are a little sniffy. "A guarded welcome. We'll see how he does." One headline described him as "Honest Ossie" when he admitted — after seeing them play — that Newcastle were unlikely to make the promotion play-offs to the first division. His forthright views "will have served to dampen the enthusiasm of some wavering fans", the *Newcastle Journal* warned.

Wavering? Unlikely. More than 17,000 of them turned out for the first Ossie-managed game, a good



"I have to talk to all the evening paper journalists in the morning, and all the morning paper journalists in the afternoon": Osvaldo Ardiles on life in football-mad Newcastle

crowd for the second division. The point is that in the North there are fans. In wimpish southern M4 commuter-belt Swindon there are supporters. Where a Swindon supporter might be put off by a little rain, a Newcastle fan will relish such suffering, even if his team do not win. For what really matters is that Sunderland, the other local team, lose.

"Yes. They are very happy when something goes wrong with Sunderland," Mr Ardiles muses. "In places like London, there are more distractions, more teams. But here there is one city which is all about football. People here, they only read the back page of the paper, the sport. I have to talk to all the evening paper journalists in the morning, and all the morning paper journalists in the afternoon. Every day. It was nothing like this in Swindon."

Talking non-stop has made Mr Ardiles into a Coke addict as well as a smoker. He has bottles of the stuff in his new office, in a cabinet below the Primrose Coaches cal-

endar featuring a leggy lovely. He does not want to talk about that other Argentine alleged coke consumer, Diego Maradona, who was dismissed by Italy's Naples after a positive drugs test. "Maradona has been my friend, since he was ten years old, and he still is, whatever he's accused of. What has happened to him is simple to understand in sociological terms, which I am not going to go into. He's still the best player in the world."

He is not as smart, however, as Mr Ardiles, who has made the leap from player to manager with ease, avoiding the fate of other ageing footballers: wearing a sheepskin car coat and running a sports shop. When he was imported, fresh from the World Cup, by Tottenham in 1978, he was already showing his intelligence, co-ordinating the team to work together, joining defence or attack depending on where he was most needed. "He's Señor Brains," *The Sun* said. During interviews, he would consult a dictionary for words such as

"The amount of time I stay here will be in direct proportion to the amount of success I have in the job"

"apprehensive" and "tactical", while his fellow players relied on the universal football clichés: "Magic, Brian", and, "It's the ones in the back of the net that count." Mr Ardiles is that rare thing in a man — he is intellectually and physically fit. Asked if he is a dictator in training, he draws himself to his full height and says: "I'm what — 5ft 6ins? — how could I be a dictator?" But there are plenty of small dictators. "Ooh, yes, Napoleon. Touché," he giggles.

Clearly he will charm the team into submission, and it is funny watching this in action, as Mr

Ardiles cranes upwards at strapping monsters in team tracksuits queuing for an audience. The captain, Roy Aitken, is pleased. "He's a players' manager, isn't he? He's on our side."

But it will not be easy. With ten league games to go, and the time for player transfers over, improvements will have to come from within the team. "The players lack confidence. Some are playing 20 to 30 per cent below their capabilities, and the whole team suffers."

Mr Ardiles says he prefers to be "with the boys in the grass". He hates office life. "I want them to play entertaining, attacking football. English football is so insular. It has to change. Everyone runs at 100mph all the time. But in the World Cup, it's hot. You can't run that fast. You need a lot of skill, a lot of midfield work."

His recipe worked for Swindon, who were promoted to the first division, and then relegated over financial irregularities. He was relieved to move on to Newcastle. "The amount of time I stay here

will be in direct proportion to the amount of success I have in the job." He intends to buy a house with his wife, Sylvia, and later his two teenage sons will join him.

Judging by the autograph hunters, it will not be long before Newcastle accepts him. The days of "the Belgrano factor", when he was booed by football supporters after the Falklands conflict, which he spent in Paris, are over. Even the fact that the Football Association once refused him a coaching qualification, after five years which qualified him as an English player, because he was "a foreigner", no longer rankles. He believes that decision was bureaucratic, rather than racist, and those who know him in the game care about his talent more than his roots.

"I'm here now. Don't need a coaching qualification once you're a manager," he says, swinging around in his chair, in a pleased sort of way. It was put better by a local paper a few days ago: "Away the lads. Magpies Out to Steal Win and Ossie."

Bastion of What?

Oriel's first woman provost, a quiet success

THE Rev Dr Ernest H. son, provost of Oriel College, Oxford, is the man behind the appointment of Sarah C. as the college's first woman. But he is in no way boastful about women at a male bastion.

Ms Coakley is also not to speak. The provost made it clear he does not want to do an interview. "There are certain things in the college who do things being in the press."

One might imagine a stout to fill Oriel with priests. In fact, Ms C. will be teaching the college's first female do it was founded in 1324. Oriel, which in 19 came the last college mixed, is sensitive about labelled a male forte provost minimises the significance of Ms C's appointment. "The w not about to collapse college has two other fellows, plus a female scholar. Five years broke the historic link the college chaplaincy tutorial fellowship in 1971, previously, it had to be Anglican and

Ms Coakley is regarded her peers as one of the best theologians of her time. After taking a D. degree, she did post-work and produced a book, *Trinitarian Theology*, before moving to Lancaster university, where she is now a woman in its religious faculty. By sharing her sorship with her husband, a fellow theologian, she has managed up two children. In joined the Doctrine mission of the Church, a male-dominated which writes on docu

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RACHEL

Census and sensibilities

Why filling in the ten-yearly headcount form provokes the oddest of anxieties

Any day now, a pleasant person will turn up on your doorstep with a census form: the nineteenth in succession since 1801. (It should have been the twentieth, but in 1941 Britain flinched at attempting to count its embattled and evacuated citizens.) The doorstepper is known by the carefully bland title of enumerator: gone are the robust Victorian days when the ten-yearly census was carried out by constables, tithingmen, and overseers of the poor, many of them no doubt carrying truncheons just in case. The enumerator will smile nicely, both on delivering your form and on collecting it again the day after Census Night, April 22.

Unless, of course, you have torn it up, fed it to the dog, or spoilt it by frivolously insisting that you have 18 Chinese lodgers in the loft. If you have, you are in trouble. In the explanatory leaflets the Census Office slips in the odd veiled threat: "There is only one circumstance in which the census form from an identified individual might be revealed to other people before

who, as head of household, had the duty of writing it down. A light leader in *The Times* entitled "Mr Barrett's Great Day" portrayed the master at work in a civilisation long gone: "Tactfully he will find out the age of the valued retainer who has made his chief business to conceal this very thing for the last generation... Diplomacy will somehow steer him in safety away from a confession to his wife that he has forgotten the year of their marriage and the birthdays of all their children." Forty years on, the wife will probably fill in the form, and the only live-in

domestic help will have been born in about 1974. By 1971, the protest generation had worked up a small head of steam about government snooping: in my university there was a pleasing rumour that if you rubbed candle-wax over certain sections of the form the computer would not be able to read them.

I cannot remember whether our shared house actually got round to doing this, but I do remember a splendid row about which of us was the head of household. Ten years later, we were all getting on in life and less wary

of forms: if you parents, in good employment and owning an inside census makes you feel Smugger, anyway, it broke student, the divorcee or the cardiac dweller (who is to be this time by volunteer streets).

My mease, now I the candlewax stage discovered that the head of household worth fighting for, is a one. It is the sheer element of admitting to a house with four oo and four lavatories. It way when we bought est, and is not otherwise large. But what w enumerator think?

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the 100-year period has elapsed. If a person is prosecuted under the 1920 Census Act... the form may be produced in court... So there you are. Get a pen, fill it in... If the census is "a snapshot of Britain" on the night of April 21 (why did they choose London Marathon day, when all those exhausted runners will be sleeping on friends' sofas?), then attitudes to it are an equally good snapshot of individuals' lives and times. In 1951, report has it, women flooded agony aunts with their dread of revealing their true age: not least to their husband

ILG Travel Limited

Do you think ILG Travel Limited (including its major trading names of Club 18-30, Global, Intasun, Lancaster and Select) owes you any money?

Notice is hereby given that on 8th March 1991:

- An Administration Order was made in respect of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED by Mr Justice Harman;
- William Frederick Ratford and Christopher Timothy Emond Hayward both of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock of 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4 were appointed as Joint Administrators of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED.

A meeting of the creditors of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED has been convened by the Joint Administrators pursuant to Section 23 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for Friday 19th April 1991 to be held at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London for the purpose of considering the proposals of the Joint Administrators.

ALL persons who are CREDITORS of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED are entitled to attend this meeting and are entitled to a copy of the statement containing the proposals of the Joint Administrators. If YOU consider that you are owed money by ILG TRAVEL LIMITED for whatever reason PLEASE write to the Joint Administrators at the following address: The Joint Administrators of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP.

Please mark the envelope "ILG TRAVEL LIMITED - CREDITORS MEETING"

In writing your letter PLEASE make sure that you include:

- Your full name and address;
- FULL details of why ILG TRAVEL LIMITED owes you money.

If having received your letter the Joint Administrators consider that you may be owed money by ILG TRAVEL LIMITED they will send you a copy of the statement of their proposals to be considered at the meeting of creditors. If you receive one of these you will be entitled to attend the creditors meeting on Friday 19th April 1991.

Even if you do not receive a copy of the proposals of the Joint Administrators in response to your letter or you do not write to the Joint Administrators, you may still be entitled to be present at the creditors meeting. If you consider ILG TRAVEL LIMITED owes you money please attend at the meeting and the representatives of the Joint Administrators will tell you whether you are entitled to attend. However, if you do not attend this will not affect your rights or any rights you may have as a creditor of ILG TRAVEL LIMITED.

If you turn up at the creditors meeting and are entitled to be present you will be given a copy of the proposals of the Joint Administrators and may be entitled to vote.

Rev of a Charles

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ROCK AND JAZZ

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From One (WFO 2CD)

But while the group's peers have been dithering, a male band of many instruments, no doubt, has been busy. The group's music is a worthy successor to the chartless, but not less, of the past. Since then, the group has shed keyboard and guitar, leaving a level, unadorned voice. Burchill and vocalists Kerr as the only members of the group, who are now, mature and fully aware of the grandiloquent want to create, they have decorated "Wob" with its fidgeting drum pattern and eerie

Nobody would be that bored, and real vinyl borer might even applaud such a tactic, were it not for the fact that the music itself is best by a similar lack of lustre. Kravitz's debut, *Let Love Rule*, released in 1989, established him as an exciting maverick talent with a quizzical obsession for psychedelic pop garnished with raw funk trimmings. Instead of broadening out from those promising beginnings, on *Mama Said* he digs himself even deeper into the historical hole from which his inspiration springs. The result is an introverted, meandering piece of work larded with mussy platitudes such as "We've got to get our heads untangled/And free our state of mind".

While Rod Stewart's current stage show is a hugely enjoyable trawl through his back catalogue, his new album, *Vagabond Heart*, betrays the creative ennui that has overtaken him in recent years. Naturally it boasts a string of hits - "Rhythm of my Heart", "It Takes Two" and "Downtown Train" - and has entered the chart this week at No 2. Full marks for tenacity, but this still sounds more like a marketing exercise than the work of a man who is capable of shooting from the hip when he wants.

AS DRUMMER with the Rolling Stones, Charlie Watts has spent the last 28 years underpinning some of the rock 'n' roll canon. But his first musical love has always been the looser swing of jazz, and on Wednesday he unveiled his latest extra-curricular project, the Charlie Watts Quintet.

Appearing before an invited audience at Ronnie Scott's, the group - comprising Peter King (saxophone), Gerard Presencer (trumpet), Brian Lemon (piano), Dave Green (bass) and Watts - breezed through the entire contents of its new 28-minute mini-album *From One Charlie*.

The music - which, apart from Parker's "Relaxing at Camarillo" and "Bluebird", was composed by King - was offered as an accompaniment to the tale of Parker's brief and troubled life as told in *Ode to a Highflying Bird*, a booklet of cartoons and jottings, created by Watts back in 1965 when a career in graphic art still beckoned. A boxed package containing booklet, album and a print of Parker will be in the shops from Monday.

At Ronnie Scott's, *Ode to a Highflying Bird* is exceedingly slight text, narrated by the Jazz FM disc-jockey Steve Edwards, was threaded between the numbers to create an affectionate cameo of words and music. Surrounded by such gifted associates Watts wisely maintained a discreet presence and a steady pulse throughout. There were no drum solos.

DAVID SINCLAIR

GALLERIES

Spanners in their works

John Russell Taylor on the machine-obsessed art of the early twentieth century and a Giacometti show at the Tate, Liverpool

Decentralisation of national collections and institutions, so long sought by aggrieved regions, seems now to be proceeding purposefully, albeit with the occasional hiccup. The National Portrait Gallery's limb at Bodelwyddan Castle in North Wales has recently suffered one of the hiccups, with the local council threatening to write off the millions they have already spent on refurbishment and sell the property over the heads of the NPG, to avoid charge capping. On the other hand, the Commonwealth Centre is extending its activities to Bradford in June, and the planned new Tate Gallery Liverpool, set to be on schedule for opening in 1992.

Meanwhile the daddy of them all, the Tate Gallery Liverpool, continues to flourish as part of the still burgeoning Albert Docks complex. As

well as a permanent selection from the general collection on the top floor, this has ample space for temporary shows on the ground and first floors. On the first floor the Tate's contribution to Liverpool's two-month preoccupation with contemporary Irish art, *Strongholds*, a not-too-encouraging collection of installations, drawings and paintings, ends tomorrow. But there can be little complaint about the two longer-term culls from stock which enliven the ground-floor galleries.

The main purpose of these displays, which run for an average of nine months, is to throw into relief various aspects of the Tate's permanent collection, taking advantage of the new routine in London. There, virtually everything is being rotated to make a number of provocatively various paths through the tangle of 20th-century art. This means that at any moment a number of first-rate works will not be on the walls at Millbank because they do not fit into this year's hang. Where better for them to be than at Liverpool?

The two new displays are devoted respectively to Dynamism and to Alberto Giacometti. The Dynamism show focuses on the outburst of frenetic artistic activity that immediately preceded the first world war. Throughout Europe, artists were excited by the very idea of being modern, living in the age of the machine, being able to move with unprecedented speed and precision.

This affected national temperaments in different ways. The Italian Futurists were the most aggressive



Movement in the quays: *The Arrival* (1914) by C.R.W. Nevinson on show at the Tate Gallery Liverpool

(not surprisingly, since many of them later became enthusiastic fascists), but the British Vorticists, inspired by the Italian Futurists and urged on by the American Ezra Pound, arrived at something hardly less explosive. The French Simultanists were more bouncy, colourful, even jolly. The Russian Rayonists tended to be hazy and grimly philosophical.

All these parallel movements are represented in the new show, from the Tate Gallery's own collections with a little help from its friends at the Imperial War Museum. The oddest thing that emerges is that, for all the talk of speed and dynamism, what nearly all the artists do in practice is to freeze frames, so that they end up with something representing dynamism but itself the reverse of dynamic. Often in art the publicity blinds spectators to what they are actually seeing. Jackson Pollack's tag as an action painter encourages people to find a lot more action in his abstract paintings than is finally there: once around his studio splattering paint in all directions is forgotten, what comes

over is a sort of zen tranquility. So, once the habitual posturing of Wyndham Lewis as every man's enemy is dismissed from mind, his paintings convey a sort of monumental repose, all evidence of movement suppressed. C.R.W. Nevinson's *The Arrival* of 1914, possibly the best single picture in the show, captures to perfection not the great sleek liner cutting through the Atlantic swell, but the moment when it has reached haven.

The image that comes to the fore in the Giacometti show is rather of Lot's wife. These anorexic, painfully elongated figures have evidently just been overtaken by some catastrophe that has fossilised them or coated them in lava. In this show the Tate's holding is displayed in a context suggesting the artist's studio. The world evoked is grim and cheerless, though it seems that Giacometti himself was not like that. The temptation is to see him as an Expressionist, although all the evidence is that he drew and modelled things exactly as he saw them.

The same is probably true of Jack B. Yeats. In the catalogue to the big Yeats retrospective, now at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Frank Auerbach is quoted dismissing the obvious notion that in his later work Yeats threw off peasant realism and became a full-blown Expressionist.

Though Yeats (the brother of W.B.) is widely regarded as the greatest twentieth-century Irish painter, there remains an unbridgeable gap between enthusiasts and those who regard most of Yeats's oil paintings as merely messy. Perhaps Auerbach should be quoted on this, too. Yeats's paintings, he says, "are very close to being bad... but when looked at closely, it can be seen that Yeats was one of the best painters of horses ever."

Dynamism/Alberto Giacometti Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock, Liverpool (051-709 3223). Tues-Sun 11am-7pm, until December 29. Sponsored by British Alan Aluminium.
Jack B. Yeats: The Late Paintings Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 5015). Tues-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed until 8pm, until May 26. Sponsored by AIB Bank.

BRIEFING

Transfer for André

FAST work by the London Symphony Orchestra on the battleground of London orchestral life: one week after André Previn resigned as principal conductor of the Royal Philharmonic, the LSO - his old orchestra - has snapped him up as "conductor laureate". The appointment begins in October 1992 and means that Previn, who was principal conductor of the LSO for 11 years until 1977, will work with the orchestra for several periods each year.

Soweto song

AFTER a 15-month run on Broadway the South African musical *Sarafina* is coming to London. Written and directed by Mbongeni Ngema, who came to international attention with *Uzalo* (1987), *Sarafina* is set in a Soweto classroom in 1976, when a history lesson is "hijacked" by students and turned into a celebration of African heroes. However, its chief selling point when it comes to the Hackney Empire (May 8 to June 1) is liable to be not its strident polemic but its music, which includes songs by the renowned South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela.

X-rated

FILM-maker Spike Lee, no stranger to controversy after his 1989 feature *Do the Right Thing*, plans to walk into a new thicket of contention by directing a biography of Malcolm X, the militant civil rights leader killed in 1965. Warner Brothers has been nervously fingering the venture for at least five years. Lee is currently rewriting a script prepared by Arnold Perl and James Baldwin, who died in 1987. Shooting is scheduled to begin in September, with a budget of \$35 million (£20 million).

Last chance...

DAVID Edgar has described himself as someone who "loves meetings". That sums up both the strengths and weaknesses of his *Shape of the Table*, which closes at the Cottesloe, National Theatre (071-928 2033) with a matinee and an evening performance tomorrow. Dramatically, it is a rather dry piece. But what other British dramatist could write so intelligently and plausibly about the machinations behind the scenes while the citizenry of East Europe was on the streets in late 1989, clamouring for change?

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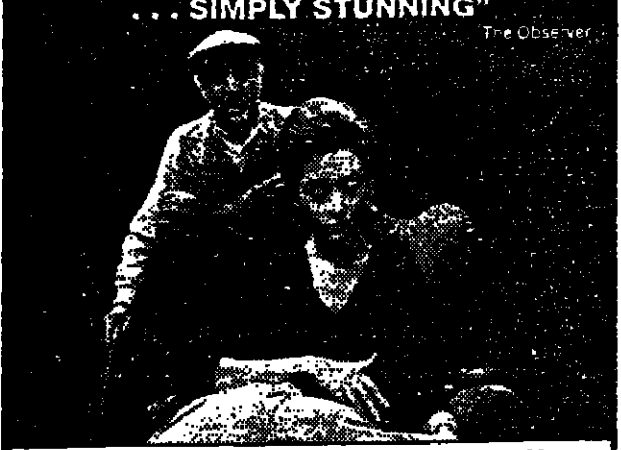
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CRITIC'S CHOICE GALLERIES

LIVING FLAME Eric Fraser's best-remembered creation was Mr Therm, the symbol of British Gas. But his pictures in Radio Times and book illustrations, funny in the Thirties, more fantastic later on, are unmistakably stylish.
ERIC FRASER Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-584 5020), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm, until April 19.
BARE TRUTH Women artists are not usually associated with the depiction of male nudes, but more and more of them are at it. The show at St Jud's features a dozen including Jacqueline Morreau and Sandra Fisher, who both also appear, along with Heidee Becker, at Odette Gilbert. Sandra Fisher is the leading light: a painter of fair, she also has the advantage of persuading her husband R. B. Klay to model for her.
THE MALE NUDE: The Women's View St Jud's, 107 Kensington Church Street, W8 (071-727 8737). Tues-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, until April 27.
THREE WOMEN Odette Gilbert, 5 Cork Street, W1 (071-437 3175). Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until May 4.
WELSH ELOQUENCE Many of Ceri Richards' most characteristic later works were related to Dylan Thomas poetry. The complete set of 12 lithographs in his Dylan Thomas Suite (1965) is shown here, along with related sketches.
CERI RICHARDS Curwen Gallery, 4 Windmill Street, W1 (071-636 1459), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm, until April 20.

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BBC

8.00 News 8.15 Holiday Outings to Inverness (r)
8.20 Desirable Dwellings. Britain's oldest individual houses,
as chosen by Lucinda Lambton (r) (Coast)

9.00 Film: The Falcon's Brother (1942, b/w). Real-life brothers George
Sanders and Tom Conway play the suave sleuth and his brother in
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11.10 Animation Now. Ship's Cabin Grapple 11.20 Charlie Chase in
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1.20 Pie in the Sky (r) 1.35 A Taste of Health (r)
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Outings to Aarhus and Legoland in Denmark (r)

2.15 Racing From Antrea. Live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and
4.20 races. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55

4.35 Look Stranger. Bill Atwell's skill with westerns (r)
5.00 Holiday 91. Caribbean and Mediterranean cruises (r) (Coast)

5.30 Top Gear. Assessing the chances of Jaguar in the Daytonas 24-
hour race in Florida (r)

6.00 Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958). The very English
Jonathan Tibbs (Kenneth More) is the unlikely sheriff of a remote
town in this stranded spot Western. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

Wales: A Way With Numbers 6.25 Medico Vivo 6.50 France
Actualite 7.15 Sign Extra

7.45 What the Papers Say. With Robert Fox of the Daily Telegraph
8.00 Night in the Crossfire.

8.10 CHOICE: Holidaymakers still sun themselves on Sri Lanka's
lovely beaches but the 18-year-old civil war between the
government and the Tamil minority shows no sign of abating.

The first of three documentaries from trouble spots on the Indian sub-
continent charts the origins of the conflict and presents its human
side through the testimony of some of the victims. As in Northern
Ireland a majority group is fighting a minority, there are atrocities
on both sides and no one wins. The losers include the fragile Sri
Lankan economy. Up to last year it was the Sinhalese against the
Tamils. Then a second minority group, the Muslims, became
unwillingly embroiled when two villages were attacked and their
inhabitants massacred. A Muslim woman recalls gunmen bursting
into her mud home in the middle of the night and leaving eleven
dead. She escaped with the loss of her left leg

8.30 Gardeners' World visits Susan Hampshire's six-acre Oxfordshire
garden

9.00 Rory Bremner. More clever comic impersonations

9.30 Arena: Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon.

CHOICE: His first contact with Hollywood was a bit part in A
Midsummer Night's Dream at the age of four. But Kenneth Anger
became much better known as an underground filmmaker and
chronicler of the movie capital's scandals and tragedies. His
anthology of suicides, rapes and suicides was published as
Hollywood Babylon and originally banned in the United States.

Nigel Finch's study is essentially the film of the book, dwelling with
the help of dramatic reconstruction on such headline grabbers as
the Fatty Arbuckle trial and the meticulously planned suicide of the
"Mexican spitfire", Lupe Velez. We relive the car crashes that
ended the lives of Tom Mix, Jayne Mansfield and James Dean. We
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His own films are not likely to turn up at the local Odeon

10.30 Newsnight with Francine Sturt 11.15 Weather

11.20 Film: Tabataba (1988). With its apt title (mourning-mongering) this
drama is set in the Madagascar of 1947 under French colonial rule.

A stranger arrives, spreading the sort of rumours which provoke
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2.15 Racing From Antrea. Live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and
4.20 races. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55

4.35 Look Stranger. Bill Atwell's skill with westerns (r)
5.00 Holiday 91. Caribbean and Mediterranean cruises (r) (Coast)

5.30 Top Gear. Assessing the chances of Jaguar in the Daytonas 24-
hour race in Florida (r)

6.00 Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958). The very English
Jonathan Tibbs (Kenneth More) is the unlikely sheriff of a remote
town in this stranded spot Western. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

Wales: A Way With Numbers 6.25 Medico Vivo 6.50 France
Actualite 7.15 Sign Extra

7.45 What the Papers Say. With Robert Fox of the Daily Telegraph
8.00 Night in the Crossfire.

8.10 CHOICE: Holidaymakers still sun themselves on Sri Lanka's
lovely beaches but the 18-year-old civil war between the
government and the Tamil minority shows no sign of abating.

The first of three documentaries from trouble spots on the Indian sub-
continent charts the origins of the conflict and presents its human
side through the testimony of some of the victims. As in Northern
Ireland a majority group is fighting a minority, there are atrocities
on both sides and no one wins. The losers include the fragile Sri
Lankan economy. Up to last year it was the Sinhalese against the
Tamils. Then a second minority group, the Muslims, became
unwillingly embroiled when two villages were attacked and their
inhabitants massacred. A Muslim woman recalls gunmen bursting
into her mud home in the middle of the night and leaving eleven
dead. She escaped with the loss of her left leg

8.30 Gardeners' World visits Susan Hampshire's six-acre Oxfordshire
garden

9.00 Rory Bremner. More clever comic impersonations

9.30 Arena: Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon.

CHOICE: His first contact with Hollywood was a bit part in A
Midsummer Night's Dream at the age of four. But Kenneth Anger
became much better known as an underground filmmaker and
chronicler of the movie capital's scandals and tragedies. His
anthology of suicides, rapes and suicides was published as
Hollywood Babylon and originally banned in the United States.

Nigel Finch's study is essentially the film of the book, dwelling with
the help of dramatic reconstruction on such headline grabbers as
the Fatty Arbuckle trial and the meticulously planned suicide of the
"Mexican spitfire", Lupe Velez. We relive the car crashes that
ended the lives of Tom Mix, Jayne Mansfield and James Dean. We
hear how Ramon Navarro was allegedly to death and choked on
his own blood. Anger says the film medium is evil but he loves it.

His own films are not likely to turn up at the local Odeon

10.30 Newsnight with Francine Sturt 11.15 Weather

11.20 Film: Tabataba (1988). With its apt title (mourning-mongering) this
drama is set in the Madagascar of 1947 under French colonial rule.

A stranger arrives, spreading the sort of rumours which provoke
passions to take up the fight for independence. With Francois
Botzandry and Lucien, played by Raymond Raparivolo. (In French and Malayalam with English sub-titles)
Ends at 12.40am

12.40am News 1.05 Holiday Outings to Inverness (r)
1.20 Desirable Dwellings. Britain's oldest individual houses,
as chosen by Lucinda Lambton (r) (Coast)

9.00 Film: The Falcon's Brother (1942, b/w). Real-life brothers George
Sanders and Tom Conway play the suave sleuth and his brother in
a murder mystery set in South America. Directed by Stanley Logan

10.00 Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd (1962, b/w). The usual
mayhem as the bumbling pair tangle with treasure hunters in pirate-
infested waters. Charles Laughton is the uncomfortable guest
star. Directed by Charles Lamont

11.10 Animation Now. Ship's Cabin Grapple 11.20 Charlie Chase in
One of the Smiths (b/w) 11.45 The Honeymooners (b/w). Fifties
comedy series from America

12.10 After Hours featuring comedian Jonathan Winters
12.20 Chronicle: Sir Mortimer Wheeler - The Vicary's Secret For Me.
The conclusion of a two-part tribute to the late archaeologist (r)

1.20 Pie in the Sky (r) 1.35 A Taste of Health (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by Weekend Outlook (r) 2.05 Holiday
Outings to Aarhus and Legoland in Denmark (r)

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY APRIL 5 1991

Deputy Business Editor
Robert Ballantyne

Two UK groups raising £121m

Two large British construction companies are seeking cash £121 million from shareholders.

It is seeking £77 million for a two-for-one rights issue and the construction company revealed a 10 per cent collapse in profits to £5.5 million for the year.

The issue had been expected for some time and was reacted calmly, rising to 220p, 65p above the issue price.

The profits were hit by a takeover of its main land bank for a year. Costain has been writing down values by £20 million, having made a profit of £20 million in 1990.

Costain is seeking a new £100 million issue, via a one-for-one share issue, to raise the money.

The money will be used mainly in its British products division. Profits for the year ended December fell to £30.1 million (£35.4 million in 1990).

Earnings per share fell to 12p (19.34p). The final dividend is 10p, a 3.75p increase on the previous year.

The shares fell 13p. Tempus, page 23

SE at peak
The buying and bid index for the FT-SE 100 index rose to a new high of 2,544.7, beating its previous peak of 2,524.5.

The index ended the day at 2,524.5, an all-time high on a turnover of 634 shares.

Edges up
Baird, the textiles and engineering group, has announced a 1 per cent increase in its profits to £33.8 million for the year.

A final dividend of 5.35p makes 8.9p, a 6 per cent increase.

Tempus, page 23

United lands at Heathrow and takes on Virgin

Transatlantic air fare price war takes off

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TRANSATLANTIC price war loomed last night after Stephen Wolf, chairman of United Airlines, pledged to match any fare to America.

On the day that his company's first flights landed at Heathrow, Mr Wolf said United, the largest airline in the Western world, would match Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways "even if it gets to the point where you will fly for free and we will give you £100 to do so".

Mr Branson countered with an attack on the quality of service offered by United. He also took a sideswipe at British Airways marketing campaign, saying: "We don't have to give away seats to attract customers." Virgin insisted Mr Wolf had yet to make good his promise, claiming United's fares were, typically, 15 per cent more expensive.

Mr Wolf also promised that United would mount a campaign to encourage Americans to holiday in Europe.

United, whose slogan is "Fly the friendly skies", flew its first four transatlantic flights into Heathrow yesterday morning after a successful five-month battle with transport authorities for approval to take over routes from Pan Am. UAL, parent company of United, paid \$290 million for the routes. Mr Wolf arrived from Washington on the first flight.

Virgin, however, has also received approval to increase flights across the Atlantic. Competition is likely to intensify further when American Airlines completes the takeover of transatlantic routes purchased for \$445 million from TWA.

Mr Wolf gave warning, for the first time, that United's marketing arrangement with British Airways was at risk. BA faces the loss of transatlantic passengers previously "fed" by United's domestic flights under the agreement.

Mr Wolf said talks with BA had begun. "We are certainly going to modify our marketing arrangement," he said. "Now we will feed ourselves." Mr Wolf said some arrangements might continue.

In the last quarter of 1990, higher fuel costs and a slump in passenger numbers triggered by the Gulf war caused United to

make a \$296 million operating loss, the worst in its history. Mr Wolf said: "We will probably look at a number that is not too different from that in the first quarter of this year."

At the same time, United has contracted to take delivery of a new Boeing plane every week for the next three or four years. The replacement programme for its ageing fleet will cost \$40 billion.

Mr Wolf predicted a similar shakeout of operators in the European airline business to the one that has occurred after deregulation of the American industry in the past decade.

He showed only lukewarm enthusiasm for moves to open the huge internal American market to foreign competition. Mr Wolf said he would support efforts for BA to win cabotage rights to fly within America only if the US government obtained comparable rights elsewhere which would balance the effect on United's business.

By the end of May, United will fly from six American cities into Heathrow. There will be 14 flights a week to and from Kennedy Airport at New York, and Dulles, at Washington. In addition, there will be daily services from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Newark, and five flights a week from Seattle. United will also operate onward flights to and from Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Frankfurt.

By the end of the year, United expects to employ 1,300 people in London. Some will be staff previously employed by Pan Am and Air Europe.

United they stand: the American carrier's aircraft after making their flights to Heathrow yesterday

BZW downgrades BA profits
BRITISH Airways, which has been fighting to regain lost passengers in the wake of the Gulf war and the recessionary squeeze, has had its profits downgraded by Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

BZW has slashed its pre-tax profits forecast for this year from £200 million to £120 million, and from £150 million to break-even next year.

The shares reacted with a fall of 8p to 163p.

Ian Wild, a transport analyst at BZW, said: "The decline in traffic is greater than we originally expected."

He feels that, in spite of the variety of offers from BA as it



Wolf at the door: Stephen Wolf arrives at Heathrow

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Lowndes customers paid £7m

By OUR CITY STAFF

REFUND cheques worth a total of £7 million were today posted to 25,000 customers of Lowndes Queensway, the furniture chain that went into receivership last August.

The customers had made payments in advance for goods they did not receive. Full repayment is being made under a £15 million insurance policy set up by Lowndes Queensway to cover its possible failure. About 2,000 customer claims, where further information is awaited, have still to be settled.

Jonathan Phillips, of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm that is handling the claims, said: "I am confident there is sufficient money in the pot to pay all valid claims in full."

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Ashcroft denies allegation of improper share deal in BAA

By ANGELA MACKAY

MICHAEL Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, the car auction and security company, has rejected an allegation that he improperly dealt in BAA shares, denying he ever owned a personal stake. The allegation was made by ADT's biggest shareholder, Laidlaw, the Canadian waste disposal and bus company, in a lengthy complaint filed with US courts last week.

According to a statement yesterday, ADT, and some of its directors named in the complaint, have started proceedings against Laidlaw, Donald Jackson, its chief executive officer, and others for defamation.

ADT's first line of counter-attack will be to seek today in the Southern District Court of New York to have Laidlaw's complaint dismissed. At the heart of the complaint are allegations that ADT published accounts giving "a false and misleading" impression of the true state of ADT's finances.

ADT said it believed the allegations were part of an attempt by Laidlaw "to renege on its standstill agreement with ADT".

In the complaint filed last week, Laidlaw alleged Mr Ashcroft had bought a 5 per cent stake in BAA and sold his shares on November 29, 1990, hours before ADT sold a similar block which resulted in the shares falling 12p to 392p. Mr Ashcroft said he had never held a personal stake in

BAA and never made an announcement to the Stock Exchange that he had sold such a stake as alleged by Laidlaw. BZW and Smith New Court, who purchased the ADT stake, said ADT's deal represented the bulk of stock exchange dealings in BAA on November 29.

ADT's counsel is expected to submit several examples of purported inaccuracies in the complaint to the district court to try to have it dismissed today.

Apart from the BAA allegation, another example involves Laidlaw's allegation that ADT has adopted anti-takeover by-laws which the Canadian company said "authorise the board to ignore transfers of stock to transfers of whom they do not approve".

ADT would argue that, according to the company's by-law 24, the only instances where directors may refuse to register transfers is when the company has a charge or a lien on the shares, when they are not fully paid shares or when voting rights of the shares are suspended. Counsel will submit ADT has fully paid shares only and has not suspended any shareholder's voting rights.

Concerned by the sharp devaluation of its 29 per cent stake in ADT, Laidlaw has delayed ADT's annual meeting and is trying to place four of its directors on the board.

Revision erases retail sales rise

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL revisions have wiped out the 1 per cent rise in retail sales initially reported for February, confirming the trade's impression that sales remained flat last month.

The downgrading emerged in seasonally adjusted data from the Central Statistical Office, which brought the retail sales indices since 1986 into line with recent survey information.

The Bundesbank's decision to leave its key interest rates unchanged brought little change in market sentiment for further cuts in British base rates, with the government

seen likely to wait until at least after the March retail price data next Friday. The pound held steady, despite nervousness over the Neath by-election. But the dollar fell back after American jobless claims figures showed the biggest weekly increase this year.

The figures prompted speculation that American interest rates could be lowered after today's labour market figures. Sterling closed 55 points higher against the dollar at \$1.7835, and gained almost a penny to DM2.9743. Its trade-weighted index was unchanged at 92.7.

WPP unlikely to resume dividends before 1993

By JONATHAN PRYNN

WPP, the marketing services group, said it is unlikely to recommence payments on its shares before June 1993, under the bank refinancing terms announced yesterday.

WPP passed its dividend last month, in spite of a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £90 million. The refinancing has been expected since November when the company told its bankers it was likely to break its covenants in the second quarter of this year.

WPP's share price slumped to a low of 59p, but recovered strongly this week to close last night at 189p, up 23p.

Refinancing details have emerged largely as expected. The group's banking facilities have been amalgamated into a single enlarged medium-term

facility of about \$1 billion, with financial covenants loosened in exchange for margins widened by an average of 0.75 per cent.

The key interest cover covenant has been relaxed to about two times.

Bankers will receive success fees. Under a complicated formula related to WPP's ordinary share price and the rate at which the company pays off its borrowings, the maximum success fee payable is £10 million. The total maximum bank and professional fees involved in the refinancing are thought to be not more than £20 million.

WPP is allowed to settle its earn-out commitments of up to £31.2 million in cash rather than shares. The interest rate

covenant means that ordinary and preference shareholders are unlikely to see any dividends either this year or next.

A preference dividend that falls due on April 30 will be passed because of insufficient distributable reserves. Six months from that date, the holders of the preference shares become entitled to voting rights.

WPP warned that because of the covenants "it is unlikely that the company will have sufficient distributable reserves to pay dividends on its shares until at least June 1993". WPP also issued a statement, advising that increased confidence since the end of the Gulf war "has not, as yet, been reflected in more client spending."

Bank breaks ranks over customer confidentiality

The Co-op stops co-operating

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE "people's bank", the Co-operative, has come down on the side of the people when it comes to keeping financial affairs private — the bank has decided to abolish the system of confidential credit references as the first section of a new customer charter.

The charter destroys the consensus between high street banks over their plan for a new joint code of practice. The introduction of the code was delayed last month after complaints from consumer groups that it ignored many of the recommendations in the original Jack report on banking practice.

Unfortunately, the user-friendliness of the Co-operative did not appear to have helped its financial performance last year. The bank was severely hit by bad debt provisions and fell to a loss of £14.9

million in the year to January 12, down from a pre-tax profit of £18.5 million. Provisions rose 111 per cent to £57.1 million, while the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the 100 per cent shareholder, has agreed to pass its £2.5 million annual dividend. The bank suffered its largest write-off against the collapse of Pavilion Leisure, a hotel operator, and Citygrove, the property company earlier this year. These accounted for a large part of a £16 million provision for post-balance sheet events.

On confidentiality, Terry Thomas, the managing director, said public hostility to the code of practice showed that customers wanted banks to implement the full report. Any high street bank can presently apply to another for a credit reference on a customer. The customer may never know the reference was asked for or given, and is never told the

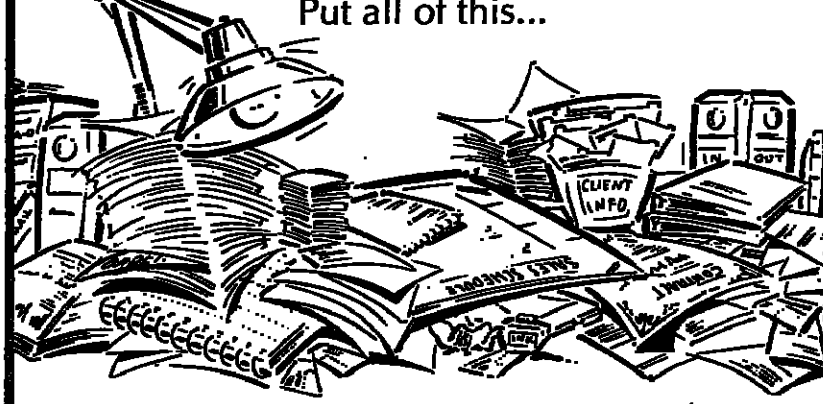
contents of the reference. The Co-op claims the system is being abused by companies and individuals to discover financial secrets. From June 3, the Co-op will give out a reference only after it receives written permission from a customer. It will then send a copy of the reference to the account holder.

This is the first in a series of initiatives that will develop into the charter. Next, Mr Thomas said, the Co-op would look at ways of restricting access to customer's names and addresses. Ultimately, everyone will sign a copy of the charter when they open an account at the bank. The customer charter is the latest move by the Co-op that other banks have eventually been forced to follow. Previous successes have included free banking and interest-paying current accounts.

Comment, page 23

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TIMES 5

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London share prices have risen by 23 per cent since mid January and City analysts are, not surprisingly, nervous. The share price has reached, or is at least approaching, the target of the City for 1991 at the end of the year. A favoured share price of \$2,600 on the FT-100 and that index topped yesterday morning before falling. Have we had the bull or should strategists tear up forecasts and start again? The answer depends on where the market is heading. For three months early in the year, the share index rose only about 7 per cent. Then came the oil price crash and the growing realisation that the economic slump was much deeper than previously imagined. That prospect has been the catalyst for a recovery, but a recovery in the stock market is just as important as a recovery in the economy. The Gulf and oil price

turn for Fisheries. The fish processing industry has reported a sharp recovery in profits, which have already risen 64 per cent to £3.30 million. The recovery is due to a combination of factors, including a fall in the price of fish, a rise in the price of fishmeal, and a recovery in the price of fish oil.

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National Westminster Bank Pl. The Commission has been successful in securing a commitment from the UK to pump more money into the state-owned companies, and the Commission has also secured a commitment from the UK to check if the state aid in

Shares pause for a rethink

COMMENT

uncertainties have gone, while currency worries have eased. The evident cheapness of share prices around November, when most companies reporting results appeared to offer good value for investors' money, has been eaten up by the rise in prices. Bargains are harder to find, though dividend yields around 7 per cent can still be had on a few companies. By historical standards ratings are by no means extravagant. The All-share index probably sells at about 14 times likely 1991 earnings. Both the slump and falling interest rates seem to be discounted and the financial institutions have probably now invested most of their pent-up spare cash, given the likely flow of rights and gilt-edged issues. Future progress in share prices will therefore depend more on the stock market value. There is a boom atmosphere. If it continues, share prices could well rise further this year after an

almost inevitable short-term correction. But only investors taking a long view should be buying. Sentiment could be knocked by election uncertainty and any statistical signs that the expected recovery is being delayed. The most vulnerable sectors are those such as building, motors, insurance and non-food retailing, where valuations are already looking through 1991 to a big profit recovery in 1992. These should now be avoided. The Co-operative Bank is a gadfly in the banking industry, repeatedly goading its larger rivals into offering new products and services when they might have preferred to

new customer charter. Many bank account holders are naturally horrified that their financial position can be revealed to an unknown third party through enquiries via another bank, and that they are not even allowed to see a copy of the reference. References are normally written in an arcane banking language, but a practised reader can often gauge a subject's net worth and financial reliability from the answer he receives. Many references are requested by credit companies for legitimate trade purposes. They can, however, be misused by less reputable financial firms searching for potential customers or even by private investigators trying to uncover personal financial information. The Jack report was unequivocal in its call for greater customer protection. "The duty of confidentiality must be given the weight it deserves as a pillar of the banking system of this

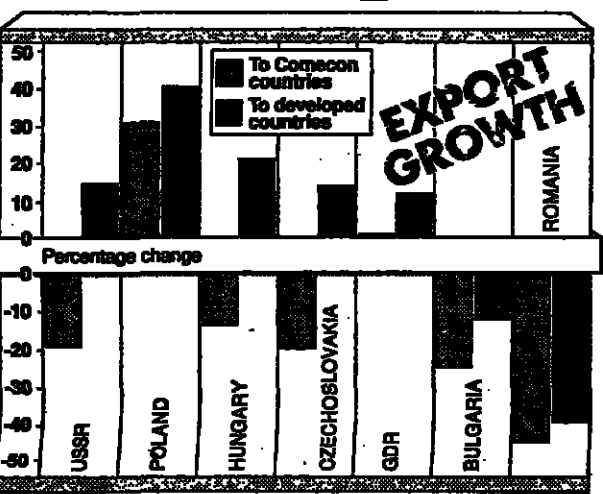
It figures

The Central Statistical Office, which makes no secret of how hurt it has been by the charge that shortcomings in its data led the government into false judgments on the economy, has revised the retail sales series back to 1986. And lo, it would appear to deflate the Lawson boom somewhat. The revisions, which take full account of the findings of the 1988 statutory retailing enquiry, show that the CSO made too big an adjustment for under-reporting from 1986, particularly during the first two years. Where previous data showed volume sales rising 13.2 per cent in 1986-88, we are now informed it was only 11.7 per cent. More recently, the overstatement has been less, the CSO insists. Many retailers are not so sure.

Banks bit

The Co-operative Bank is a gadfly in the banking industry, repeatedly goading its larger rivals into offering new products and services when they might have preferred to

Worst shocks still to come for eastern Europe



The commission argues, however, that such inferences may not be justified because the overnight monetary union made Germany a unique case. East Germany has suffered greater falls in production and will experience higher unemployment than any of the other eastern countries because of the way the economy was subjected overnight to an "enormous overvaluation" of the exchange rate under the terms of German monetary union. This was aggravated further by high wage settlements and, most recently, by an agreement in the metal-working industries to bring wage levels up to the western German level by 1994. As a result of this enormous increase in eastern Germany's relative labour costs, virtually all its capital stock was rendered obsolete overnight. The new level of labour costs will not be sustained by huge investment that would move eastern German industries immediately to the "technological frontier". Such investment will not be forthcoming, however, without a comprehensive improvement in eastern Germany's economic infrastructure. The only way to keep unemployment "within acceptable bounds" will be for the German government to provide considerable investment incentives and possibly to pay direct wage subsidies. Looking at the other countries that have made substantial reform efforts, the report suggests that the creation of a political consensus and the establishment of firm institutional foundations for private

enterprise may be more crucial than the choice between shock treatment and more gradual reform. Of the countries that attempted shock treatment, Poland has been successful in creating the basis for a market economy, although it will soon face higher unemployment and a possible resumption of hyper-inflation. Yugoslavia, in contrast, has made "virtually no progress" in the transition to a market economy, largely because of a lack of political consensus and the rivalry for power between federal authorities and individual republics. Turning to countries which have chosen more gradual reform paths, the commission says that Czechoslovakia and Hungary enjoyed substantial advantages over other countries in the region. Hungary had already built up considerable experience in working with market mechanisms, while Czechoslovakia had preserved "functioning economic mechanisms" and avoided large foreign indebtedness under the old communist regime. Therefore, it faced a less urgent need for economic stabilisation. However, the main burden of adjustment to international competition and market forces will be felt this year and next. The adjustment for eastern European countries will be made harder by the trade shock they are suffering after the breakup of Comecon and the suspension of cheap energy imports from the Soviet Union. The commission notes, more hopefully, that exports to the advanced capitalist world, and particularly to the European Community, have grown rapidly, partly offsetting the losses in the former Comecon market. This growth suggests that substantial parts of eastern European industry may be able to adapt to international competition, given the right political and economic environment.

Counting the cost at Costain

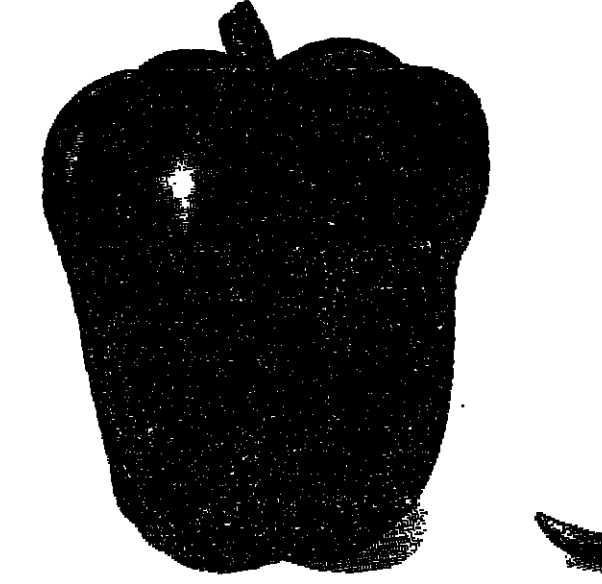
TEMPUS

COSTAIN shareholders are belatedly receiving the bill for Pyro, the American coal mining company bought for \$193 million nearly two years ago. Having opted, sensibly it appeared at the time, to buy Pyro with borrowed money, Costain had the misfortune to run into high interest rates, economic recession and the worst market for residential and commercial property in decades. Small wonder that plans to reduce gearing from a post-Pyro level of 75 per cent have come to less than nothing. Clearing, as of a fortnight ago, was 102 per cent. Having seen the total interest bill more than double to £33 million in 1989 and rise again to £38.7 million last year, the board decided enough was enough. Hence the two-for-seven rights issue at 155p to raise £77 million. However, the recession has already wreaked havoc with a balance sheet weakened by the Pyro purchase. Having bought housebuilding land at the top of the market, Costain has been forced to make provisions of £45 million in two years. This year's provisions of £25 million contributed substantially to the 90 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.5 million. After £13.5 million of

extraordinary costs, the company had to dip into reserves to finance an unchanged 12.25p total dividend. The 23 per cent discount to the ex-rights price of 202p makes it an offer existing shareholders will find hard to turn down, but also indicates the risk involved. On a price-earnings multiple of almost 12 (based on current year profits of £50 million) new buyers should approach with caution. Whether the bottom has quite been reached at Baird is open to question, given Mr Parr's downbeat projections for the current year. In particular, Darchem, the engineering half of the group, looks set for a miserable first half. Analysts' forecasts for 1991 suggest Baird will once again turn out pre-tax profits of about £33 million, putting the shares on a multiple of just over 11 times. The market's liking for the shares, which have outperformed throughout the recession, may well fade as the recovery begins. It is probably too late to buy, but the shares still look a safe hold. IBSTOCK Johnsen's call for £44 million of rights money via a one-for-four issue at 90p is for beefing up facilities in Britain at a time when the brick market is still falling - but whose eventual recovery

TravelMate

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TravelMate notebook computers from Texas Instruments are the hot little portables that pack desktop performance in a size that makes your average briefcase look big. Want more efficiency? Don't sacrifice desktop power, take it with you, with TravelMate! With its small size, and 286 or superpowerful 386SX architectures, it's the best way to spice up your efficiency in meetings, workgroups, afterhours, on the go, or right at your desk. Want lots of storage and memory? You can configure TravelMate just like your desktop system thanks to a 20, 40 or 60 Mb hard disk drive, optional or fully-integrated 3.5" floppy drive and fully-upgradable RAM. All in a sleek A4 format that PC Magazine calls a "masterpiece of miniaturization". Big on comfort. TravelMate doesn't make you pay for portability with a loss in comfort. Its full 10" VGA display provides the sharp, dazzling performance that makes windowing and complex graphics a pleasure. And its full-function keyboard provides real desktop comfort. Software includes MS-DOS*, Battery Watch*, LapLink* and more. It's no wonder BYTE Magazine and PC Magazine have both given TravelMate* their 1990 awards for excellence! Too powerful? Not if you have a taste for fast solutions in one of the world's most portable notebooks. Your TI dealer will be happy to provide you with a demonstration. And a glass of water, just in case. TAM90 CPU: 80286 or 80386, 20 MB HDD, 1 MB RAM standard (expandable to 1 MB), 9-pin RS-232C, 3.5" floppy drive, 1.44 MB diskette drive, modem and mouse. TAM90 CPU: 80386, 40 MB HDD, 20 MB RAM standard (expandable to 2 MB), 9-pin RS-232C, 3.5" floppy drive, 1.44 MB diskette drive, modem and mouse. TravelMate is a trademark of Texas Instruments Incorporated. MS-DOS is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Battery Watch and LapLink are registered trademarks of TravelMate Software, Inc. *Based on the TAM90. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Princes in the rain
The Prince of Wales, who duly sent one on to Sir Ralph Halpern, who has certainly had little luck in his dealings with the press over the years, promptly forwarded copies to Victor Blank, chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse, Sir Tim Bell, image consultant to Margaret Thatcher, and Peter Stringfellow, a nightclub owner. Sir Mark Weinberg joined in the fun by sending one of his copies to Lord Rothschild. Halpern, meanwhile, who denies that his luck has changed, nevertheless received a £2 million golden handshake when he left Burton last November. Some people might say, however, with that still fresh in their minds, that he was already very lucky indeed.

Wings clipped
GENTLEMAN though he is, and therefore, a man not given easily to complaining, Marcus Colby, the sprightly 87-year-old who still works full time at WICAR, is nevertheless disappointed by the City's response to this year's Wings Appeal for RAF charities. Speaking in his capacity as president of the Stock Exchange branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, at its 29th annual dinner last night - where guests included Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy - Colby complained that although he had sent out appeal letters to the senior partners of more than 300 member firms, plus members of the TSA, he received only 29 replies of which 24 were accompanied by cheques. The net result was a collection amounting to £7,145, barely half what Colby had hoped. "I don't know why the Wings Appeal does not appeal, especially after the Gulf war," he laments, "but it does seem to be incredibly difficult."

No hiding place
THE 19 main board directors of ICI - whose total emoluments amount to £2.69 million a year - will soon know no hiding place. No longer will an overseas business trip be sufficient to excuse them from the critical eye of the company's shareholders at the annual meeting, or from internal committee or board meetings. For, at the annual meeting of ICI shareholders this month, it is proposed to change the articles of association so that the directors can attend, with full voting rights, board and committee meetings by conference telephone "or any other communications equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear and speak to each other". Since ICI has offices in Africa, America, continental Europe, the Pacific - just about everywhere, in fact - the changes will doubtless make life less pleasant for territorial managers abroad. Some face the prospect of being roused from their beds in the middle of the night, to "attend" a meeting in London at, say, noon - a vision that should certainly amuse shareholders at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, on April 23.

Lucky chain
THE rich and famous must be a superstitious bunch. For superstition is the only explanation for the success of a chain letter doing the rounds in society circles. It also reveals a good deal about personal address books. The letter, which originated in the Netherlands, has already been passed round the world 20 times and is said to bring good luck to all who further its passage. Recipients are, it seems, told to send copies to five friends... or face the consequences. One such letter somehow found its way to the desk of Guy Salter, assistant private secretary to the

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Scholl achieves healthy change

By MARTIN BARROW

SCHOLL has completed its transformation from consumer goods supplier to healthcare group. The company, formerly known as European Home Products, reported pre-tax profits of £14.2 million for last year.

The previous year's comparable profits, before an exceptional credit of £10.8 million from disposals, were £12.4 million, restated to exclude the sewing, consumer durables and hosiery businesses that no longer form part of the group.

Earnings were 10.9p per share, compared with 7.2p before exceptional. A final dividend of 3.5p makes an unchanged year's total of 6p.

Following last year's reorganisation, the company has focused on footcare and personal hygiene products, owning worldwide rights to the Scholl brand outside North and South America, Copper-tone sun care products and Playboy toiletries. The company has applied for a transfer of its Stock Exchange classification from the retail sector to health and household.

The group, whose non-executive chairman, Gordon Stevens, aims to increase the penetration of its own brands in existing markets and add complementary niche brands.

Net borrowings were reduced from £55 million to £13 million and gearing from 60 per cent to 14 per cent. Pending an independent valuation of assets, the company could receive a further £4.1 million in cash from International Semitech Micro-electronics, the final tranche of the consideration owed from the sale of the sewing and consumer durables business.

Turnover was £145.75 million, compared with £124 million and trading profits were £16.39 million (£14.85 million). Interest charges for the full year were £2.21 million, only marginally lower than the previous year's provision of £2.45 million, but the benefits of debt reduction are expected to materialise this year.

L&M rises in spite of loan provision and loss at agency

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LONDON & Manchester, the life assurance group, lifted pre-tax profits 7 per cent to £22.1 million last year, in spite of a £922,000 provision against commercial property loans and a further loss from the group's residential estate agency chain.

The group has revealed that there is £100 million surplus, which belongs to the shareholders, in its £1.6 billion life fund. L&M plans to use the

surplus to develop its products and distribution network.

L&M is increasing its final dividend by 10 per cent to 9.14p to make 13.32p for the year, an increase of 1.23p.

Profits from L&M's life assurance businesses grew 13 per cent to £19.1 million. There was also an exceptional surplus of £1.28 million created by the cancellation of an inter-group reinsurance policy between the group's life and pension funds.

Total premium income grew by 3 per cent to £230 million in the year, as a fall in single premiums was compensated for by a rise in annual business.

L&M's new intermediary business grew faster than its traditional home service operation. Premiums from unit-linked policies sold through intermediaries rose 19 per cent to £24.9 million, as the number of appointed representatives increased by 12 per cent to 642.

Profits from the non-insurance business by contrast slipped 42 per cent to £1.3 million.

The residential estate agency made a £1.3 million loss, up from a £1.6 million loss in 1989, but the effect was lessened by a profit from Leslie Lintott, the commercial agency.

Profits on mortgages dipped 17 per cent to £1.45 million due to tighter margins. This was despite a £14 million rise in the loan book to £574 million.

L&M was forced to make the £922,000 exceptional provision on its £5 million property development lending book.

Tom Pynes, the deputy chief executive, said that the business is now closed, and that L&M is "nursing through existing loans" in an attempt to recover some of the provisions.



'Well placed': Hugh Lang still confident about the future

Brammer suffers 12% fall to £11m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BRAMMER, the industrial services group, has maintained its final dividend for last year at 8.5p, making an unchanged 13p for the year, in spite of a sharp deterioration on trading conditions in the second half.

The downturn, which Hugh Lang, the chairman, said was particularly steep in the final three months of the year, resulted in a 12 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £11.4 million for the 12 months to end-December. Profits had been only 3 per cent down at the half year. Turnover in the

second half declined slightly but sales for the year were marginally up, at £122.5 million.

Mr Lang said that overheads had been cut towards the end of last year in anticipation of the expected level of activity this year. These measures resulted in redundancy costs of £885,000, recorded as an exceptional item. He said that with its unguaranteed balance sheet, Brammer was well placed to improve its competitive position this year and he remained confident of the long term outlook.

Shake-up at Atkins Brothers

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ATKINS Brothers (Hosiery), the Leicester textile company, has given warning that second-half profits have been running at below last year's levels, and announced a boardroom shake-up.

A statement said the operating performance continued to be disappointing, although the group remained in profit during the six months to end-March. The results for the year are expected to be announced in early June. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-March 1990 were £870,000, of which £620,000 were earned in the second half.

The company also said that Bill Dawson, the chairman, and Ernest Owen, the deputy chairman, are to take early retirement. David Haggitt, the senior partner of Evered, Wells & Hind, the Birmingham firm of solicitors, has been appointed as non-executive chairman. A further non-executive appointment is expected in the near future.

Sales rise predicted by BMW

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BAYERISCHE Motoren Werke, the maker of BMW cars, carried a defiant note in its 1990 annual report, insisting that it will increase sales and deliveries this year, despite signs of a sharp downturn in the European car market.

The company has high hopes for its new 3 series model, which has been launched in Germany to much acclaim although it is not yet available in Britain. Full production capacity will be reached by the summer, the company said. However, BMW admitted that the downturn in America, one of its strongest export markets, has affected the business.

BMW recently announced net profits up from DM558 million to DM696 million. Operating profits rose DM100 million to DM1.66 billion and turnover from DM26.5 billion to DM27.2 billion.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
The World	700.8	0.2	22.1	-0.1	15.7
(free)	133.8	0.2	22.0	-0.1	15.6
EAPE	1189.2	0.4	21.2	-0.1	18.6
(free)	122.1	0.4	21.1	-0.2	18.2
Europe	687.7	0.0	17.2	0.0	18.6
(free)	150.4	-0.1	18.7	-0.3	17.9
North America	521.4	-0.2	23.7	-0.4	13.8
Nordic	1350.6	0.1	24.2	0.2	24.8
(free)	215.4	-0.1	20.4	-0.1	21.5
Pacific	2685.8	0.7	24.5	-0.1	15.0
Far East	3888.1	0.7	24.4	-0.1	15.0
Australia	291.0	0.9	26.8	0.2	15.1
Canada	1478.6	0.3	13.0	0.5	16.8
Belgium	807.8	-0.5	14.4	-0.3	17.3
Denmark	492.4	0.2	15.8	0.0	6.2
Finland	1298.0	-0.1	14.8	0.2	17.5
(free)	83.9	1.2	30.4	1.3	31.0
France	117.6	1.1	36.7	1.1	37.2
Germany	674.1	-0.3	17.8	-0.3	20.4
(free)	738.7	0.0	7.7	0.1	11.0
Hong Kong	2668.1	-0.3	34.7	0.7	27.6
Italy	230.2	0.8	13.7	0.5	15.5
Japan	4082.5	0.7	23.9	-0.2	14.5
Netherlands	835.8	-0.4	13.2	-0.3	18.4
New Zealand	61.8	1.1	20.1	0.8	8.5
Norway	1174.5	-1.3	5.4	-1.2	7.5
(free)	207.9	-1.3	7.0	-1.2	9.1
Singapore	1883.5	0.9	29.9	1.1	21.7
Spain	210.8	-0.6	28.4	-0.8	28.0
Sweden	1517.7	0.4	33.3	0.2	31.9
(free)	220.4	0.3	32.8	0.1	31.4
Switzerland	849.8	0.5	20.5	0.1	22.7
(free)	128.5	0.4	18.5	0.1	21.7
USA	750.9	-0.1	19.1	-0.1	19.1
UK	474.6	-0.2	24.4	-0.4	14.5

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital Inc.

RECENT ISSUES

Abertis	81	Abertis	81
Abertis	81	Abertis	81
Abertis	81	Abertis	81
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MAJOR INDICES

New York	299.11	New York	299.11
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FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

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INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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London based · £50,000

EF Education is one of the world's leading organizations in the fields of language teaching, educational travel and cultural exchange. Some 13,000 staff members, teachers and counsellors are involved in the co-ordination of EF's worldwide programmes through a network of offices in 30 countries.

Highly intensive language courses for the business world are provided by EF Institute, which has centres in England, the USA, France, Germany and Spain. EF Institute's clients are typically executives from the world's leading corporations. We are currently looking to appoint a Director who will be responsible for the development of this division on a worldwide basis.

The ideal candidate, probably in his or her 30's, will have a proven record of success in sales and marketing and is likely to hold an executive position within the EFL world. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate the ability to bring new business to EF at a very early stage.

After an initial period of training in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the new Director will be based in London, travelling extensively in Europe, Latin America and Asia. Excellent conditions of employment include salary in the region of £50,000, a company car and other attractive benefits.

Applications (which will be treated in the strictest confidence) should be addressed to:



Susan Coswell
EF Education
One Memorial Drive,
Cambridge, MA 02142, USA
Tel: (617) 252-6000
Fax: (617) 494-1389

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSRC)

Program Officer for Research on Eastern and Western Europe

The SSRC is searching for an additional full-time program officer to assist in building and strengthening programs of internationally collaborative social science research about the ongoing political, demographic and economic transformations within Europe. Candidates must have completed the Ph.D. They should have carried out research in Eastern, Central or Western Europe, demonstrated high-level skills in comparative design and analysis techniques, possess the requisite cultural, historical and linguistic knowledge for sophisticated studies of one or more European societies, and have familiarity with the special requirements of interdisciplinary, international science. Strong skills in oral and written communication are essential. Candidates with disciplinary or multidisciplinary backgrounds in demography, economics, sociology, or political science and possessing expertise in quantitative analysis techniques will be given priority.

The program officer will organize and coordinate several Council initiatives leading to the construction of a collaborative research infrastructure (i.e., research and training facilities; databases and archives; collaborative, comparative research projects) together with researchers within Europe and the United States. Staff will serve as liaison to the SSRC/ACLS Joint Committees on Western Europe and Eastern Europe and provide technical assistance to a special presidential advisory task force for social science research on Eastern Europe. This position involves preparing and negotiating grant proposals for expansion of the program area, supervising support staff, and contributing to the Council's overall program.

Before June 1, 1991, applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and examples of both published scientific writing and grant submissions (or their equivalents). Materials should be mailed to:

Ms. Doris Sinocchi, Assistant to the President
Social Science Research Council
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

The SSRC is an equal opportunity employer; applications from women and minorities are especially welcome; applications from foreign nationals also are welcome.

GENERAL MANAGER

A position has become available in our office in West Africa for a General Manager. The company is involved in import/export worldwide.

The candidate should have about five years' experience in management with a medium-sized company, preferably in sales or marketing and must be self-motivated. A knowledge of electronics or electrical engineering will be an advantage.

The vacancy is for single status and only people under 50 years of age need apply.

References must be submitted and will be taken up. Please apply, enclosing your c.v. to Box 3289.

FINANCIAL MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR

We require a qualified accountant with good experience in administration and logistics at managerial level for our import/export company based in West Africa.

The vacancy is for single status and candidates should not be over 50 years of age.

References must be submitted and will be taken up. Please apply, enclosing your c.v. to Box No 3284

PROGRAMMER/ANALYSTS U.S.A.

Banking or Finance, with deposit or loan experience. HOGAN or FLORIDA SOFTWARE helpful. (Others considered.) Permanent, as well as short and long term assignments available.

For resume to: 01018146233893.
Send resume to: Mr. J. S. East, Box 58,
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AspenTech is a growing international company providing the process industries with today's most advanced modeling and simulation software and services. Our customers include most of the world's largest chemical firms.

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We are seeking outstanding individuals to staff our European operations. Based in Brussels, you will be responsible for selling sophisticated end-user software solutions to chemical engineering environments. You will develop new business relationships at the executive level of Fortune 100 companies, coordinate technical resources and manage the entire sales cycle to closure. If you have business and technical acumen and a consultative approach to sales, we can offer you an exciting career path with a dynamic company. A successful track record in sales is required. A technical undergraduate degree, knowledge of the process industries and an MBA are assets.

AspenTech offers competitive compensation and benefits along with an environment that encourages creativity and personal growth. Interested candidates should send a resume, in confidence, to the Managing Director.



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The Netherlands

• Cambridge • The Hague • Brussels • Tokyo • Hong Kong

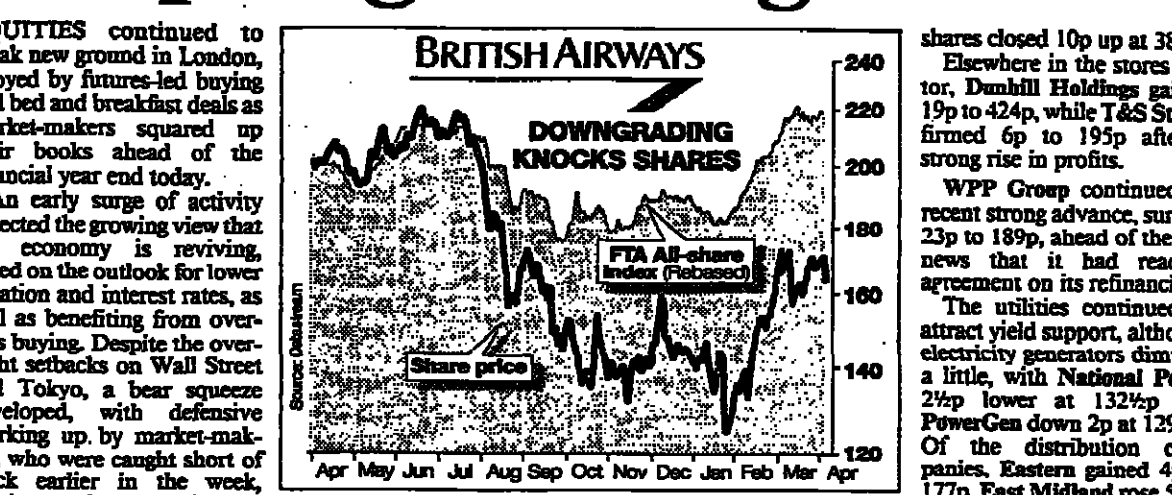
TECHNICAL WRITER

for production of car repair manuals and technical documents. This challenging position in well established company require a strong background in automotive engineering and good writing ability. Science degree and knowledge of spoken Japanese would be an asset, but not mandatory. Orientation and work experience in Japan for 1 to 2 years, before assignment to our Brussels Office. Pl send your particulars with photo to:

ITE, D. Fischer
43 Av. du Bois de la Cambre
1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Table with multiple columns showing financial data for various companies and indices, including FT-SE 100 VOLU.

Shares close at new high despite gathering caution



EQUITIES continued to break new ground in London, buoyed by futures-led buying and bed and breakfast deals as market-makers squared up their books ahead of the financial year end today.

An early surge of activity reflected the growing view that the economy is reviving, based on the outlook for lower inflation and interest rates, as well as benefiting from overseas buying. Despite the overnight setbacks on Wall Street and Tokyo, a bear squeeze developed, with defensive marking up by market-makers, who were caught short of stock earlier in the week, helping to fuel the advance.

The FT-SE 100 reached a new all-time trading high of 2,544.7.

However, a lack of domestic institutional support and increasing caution in the City led to some profit taking and the market closed well below its best levels, though at an all-time closing high.

Market sentiment was not helped by Wall Street's early deficit, and the FT-SE 100 index ended the session 5.4 higher at 2,544.5. The narrower FT index of 30 shares rose 7 at 2,007.2. Turnover reached a healthy 634 million shares. Government securities recorded advances of 1/4% in long and 1/2% in shorts.

The latest crop of rights issues failed to depress the market. Poor figures and cash calls from the building sector had been virtually discounted.

Certainly, the construction group, unveiled plans to raise £77 million by a deeply discounted...

WALL STREET

Table with multiple columns showing Wall Street market data, including company names and stock prices.

Prism Leisure, the USM wholesale distributor of music and computer games, has benefited from an unexpected surge in demand for computer games from Germany - mostly due to new demand from eastern Germany since the Berlin wall came down. As a result, pre-tax profits for the year to end-March, which are due in July, are expected to top £700,000 (£405,000). The shares were unchanged at 96p.

Istock Johnson, the building materials group, launched a £44 million rights issue on a one-for-four basis at 90p. Profits fell to £30.1 million (£59 million). The shares closed unchanged at 114p.

A savage downgrading of British Airways by BZW, slashing its forecast from £200 million to £120 million for 1991 and from £150 million to...

Dow moves ahead after early selling

World Markets

New York

BLUE chips initially gave up early gains in a round of futures-related selling but then rallied again strongly. The Dow Jones was off 16 at one stage before pushing ahead to end the morning 9.16 points up, at 2,935.89.

Paul Hennessey of Boston Co said: "We got some programs early on. I don't see any significant news item that can account for this."

● **Tokyo** - Shares ended earlier in a correction to Wednesday's 528 point gain. A steady yen, strong European markets and hopes for easier credit held back sellers, brokers said. The Nikkei index fell 90.25 points, or 0.34 per cent, to 26,689.81, with 480 million shares traded.

● **Frankfurt** - Shares eased 0.4 per cent yesterday in what dealers saw as a healthy correction after sharp rises over the last three trading days. The 30-share Dax index ended 5.53 points lower at 1,571.97.

● **Hong Kong** - Shares ended lower on profit-taking ahead of a long holiday weekend and after recent sharp gains. The blue chip Hang Seng index was also pulled lower by heavy selling of the Cheung Kong index stock. The Hang Seng ended 20.55 points lower at 3,849.15. The broader Hong Kong index slid 14.08 points to 2,519.48 on turnover of HK\$2.11 billion (£152 million).

● **Singapore** - Share prices closed mixed after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking in thin trading, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index gained 10.7 points to end at 1,498.71, helped by rises in component shares.

● **Sydney** - Australian shares struggled to a slightly firmer close, with a cut in official cash rates, to 11.5 per cent, not enough to inspire investor interest, brokers said. The All Ordinaries index finished 29 points higher at 1,459.8.

Research in Europe

A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY

On 2nd April 1991, Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore, has been established in the City of London since changed its name to Credit Suisse Asset Management Limited.

Credit Suisse Asset Management is part of the Credit Suisse group, one of only a handful of financial institutions with the coveted triple-A rating from the world's leading credit agencies.

Our range of investment funds of over £3bn and we provide a comprehensive asset management service, tailored to the needs of our institutional and private clients. Our services include mutual funds and unit trusts, pension funds, corporate and public bodies - and thousands of individuals.

At Credit Suisse Asset Management we have a tradition of personal service, based on the long experience of our senior fund managers, many of whom have been with us for over ten years. We are constantly seeking to build up our expertise and we are now adding a range of sophisticated techniques to the investment skills which have served our clients well for nearly a century. If you would like to know more about the benefits of an investment management service which combines skill and experience with impeccable backing, telephone: George Lynne or Paddy Ross on 071-247 7474. Or write to: Credit Suisse Asset Management Ltd, Beaufort House, St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ.

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Member of The Securities and Futures Authority and the International Stock Exchange

N.V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken (Philips' Industries) and N.V. Gemeenschappelijk Bezit van Aandeelen Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken (Philips' Lamps Holding) Eindhoven (The Netherlands)

Notice convening the ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Thursday, May 2, 1991, at 1.00 p.m., in the Eindhoven Convention Centre, Eindhoven, for the purpose of:

1. Opening.
2. Report of the Board of Governors for the financial year 1990.
3. Adoption of the 1990 financial statements and discharge of the members of the Board of Governors.
4. Proposals to change the structure of the Company.
 - a. Proposal to amend the Articles of Association.
 - b. Resignation of members of the Board of Governors.
 - c. Composition of the Board of Management of Philips Electronics N.V.
 - d. Composition of the Supervisory Board of Philips Electronics N.V.
 - e. Remuneration of the members of the Supervisory Board.
5. Designation of the Board of Management as the body which is authorised to issue shares or rights to shares and to restrict or exclude the pre-emption right accruing to shareholders.
6. Authorisation of the Board of Management to acquire shares in the Company.
7. Any other business.
8. Conclusion.

In so far as this is laid down in the Articles of Association, the proposals for nominations, together with information relating to the persons proposed, as well as the proposals to amend the Articles of Association have been deposited for inspection and are available free of charge at the office of the Company (Corporate Finance Securities), Groenewoudweg 1, Eindhoven and at the head offices of the banks listed below.

The items on the agenda are as follows:

N.V. PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN

1. Opening.
2. Report on the activities of the Philips group in the financial year 1990.
3. Report of the Supervisory Board on the financial statements for 1990.
4. Adoption of the 1990 financial statements and discharge of the members of the Board of Management and the Supervisory Board.
5. Proposals to change the structure of the Company.
 - a. Proposal to amend the Articles of Association.
 - b. Retirement of members of the Supervisory Board.
 - c. Appointment of Philips Electronics N.V. as sole manager of the Company.
6. Any other business.
7. Conclusion.

N.V. GEMEENSCHAPPELIJK BEZIT VAN ANDEELEN PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN

1. Opening.
2. Report of the Board of Governors for the financial year 1990.
3. Adoption of the 1990 financial statements and discharge of the members of the Board of Governors.
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 - d. Composition of the Supervisory Board of Philips Electronics N.V.
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Shareholders of N.V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken who wish to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy, must notify the Company not later than April 19, 1991, in the way indicated in the letter of convocation sent to them by the Company.

Shareholders of N.V. Gemeenschappelijk Bezit van Aandeelen Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken who wish to attend the meetings, either in person or by proxy, must notify the Company not later than April 19, 1991, in the way indicated in the letter of convocation sent to them by the Company.

The following regulations apply:

A. Holders of share-certificates to bearer:

they should deposit such certificates not later than April 19, 1991, at one of the following banks in exchange for a receipt which will entitle the holder to admission to the meeting.

In the Netherlands:

the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V. in Amsterdam, Herengracht 595; the Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam, Vijzelstraat 32; or at the office of the Company (Corporate Finance Securities).

In the United Kingdom:

Hill Samuel Bank Ltd., London.

In other countries:

at the banks designated for such purpose. Further particulars can be obtained from Hill Samuel Bank Ltd., London.

B. Holders of registered shares:

they must notify the Company not later than April 19, 1991, in the way indicated in the letter of convocation sent to them by the Company:

- with respect to shares of the Eindhoven Registry: at the office of the Company;
- with respect to shares of the New York Registry: at the office of Bankers Trust Company, Corporate Trust & Agency Group, P.O. Box 318, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10015.

Requests for copies of the Philips Annual Report 1990 should be sent to N.V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken (Corporate Finance Securities), P.O. Box 218, 5600 MD Eindhoven.

Eindhoven, April 5, 1991

PHILIPS

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Difficult decisions as the economy takes a dive

For the first time in the short history of the venture capital sector, the amount of money invested by venture capitalists last year contracted. "Venture capital in the Eighties was a phenomenon," says Dr Gordon Murray of the Warwick Business School, which has compiled a pessimistic survey of the opinions of leading venture capitalists. "It has yet to prove itself an industry."

Most venture capitalists are encountering problems as increasing numbers of their investee companies get into difficulties. Ron Hollidge, the managing director of Lloyds Development Capital, says: "There is a deep sense of shock at the number of portfolio company failures and intensive care cases, which are taking up a massive amount of time and are producing a generally risk-averse attitude among venture capitalists."

The decline in confidence is illustrated by latest buyout figures from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. In the first quarter of 1991, buyouts worth only £270 million were completed, the lowest total for three months since the third quarter of 1986. The picture is even more dramatic at the larger end of the buyout range. So far this year there have been only seven management buyouts (MBOs) valued at more than £10 million. The largest of these, the £35 million Reedpack Plastics deal, would have ranked only thirteenth in size in 1990.

David Carter, the head of fund-raising at KPMG, believes the phenomenon is largely due to the unavailability of bank finance. "Lenders have cold feet, as they have seen 6 per cent of MBOs over £10 million fail, mainly in the last year, and provisions for other possible failures have grown."

At the smaller end, many venture

Jonathan Prynn finds out in a special report that venture capitalists, hit by the recession, have taken bigger risks than they calculated

capitalists say they have seen more deals than ever before. But, according to Trevor Jones, the managing director of Gresham Trust, even in the once buoyant £2 million to £10 million range, there has been a decline in the deal flow of about 50 per cent since the middle of last year. Even when deal proposals are presented to venture capitalists, making the investment decision is even more difficult than before because of the uncertain prospects for the economy. Preparing forecasts for business plans is hazardous at the best of times; at present, it is a financiers' nightmare. The result is an overall reluctance to invest.

For example, the Glasgow-based Murray Ventures, which claims to be the largest British venture capital group based outside London, reduced its new investment in 1990 from £50 million to £20 million. In the first quarter of the current year Murray invested £10 million and predicts about £40 million for the year as a whole. Prices have tumbled, however, with average multiples having fallen from around eight to bottom out at about five in the last six to 12 months.

The combination of portfolio problems and lack of new investment opportunities is proving lethal to some once high profile companies. Security Pacific Moore Govett Equity



Dr Gordon Murray: "Venture capital has yet to prove itself"

Ventures closed its doors to business earlier this year, and some other American venture capital offshoots are also thought to be considering their future in the market.

British companies are reining back, too. Kleinwort Benson recently closed its regional operations. In total, about half a dozen companies operating on the periphery are thought to have withdrawn. The mighty 3i, once seen as the IBM of venture capital, recently changed focus from venture to investment capital, and is known to have laid off some of its staff. In 1990 its market share slipped from 29 to 20 per cent.

Iain Tulloch, an investment director, of Murray Ventures, forecasts that there is much change in the industry still to come. The plethora of institution-backed funds raised in the past three years will soon need to start demonstrating returns to their inves-

tors in 1993 and 1994. Those companies which have not invested successfully, he argues, are unlikely to get fresh funds and will have to withdraw from the market.

This need to provide returns for investors could have unhealthy side-effects for the venture capital markets in the next few years, Mr Jones says. "The wrong factors are at work. What should drive the market is the need for a change of ownership of business entities. The people who should decide whether the company should be sold on again are the management. And that is what you don't get. It's the tail wagging the dog." The need for these funds to achieve exits could result in a spate of enforced flotations of management buyouts even if conditions remain unfavourable.

Another change foreseen by many in the industry is the continued decline of the management buy-in, once the bread and butter product in the venture capitalist's range. According to Paul Brooks, the managing director of Prudential Venture Managers, buy-ins are now seen as "almost as risky as start-ups".

Historically, venture capitalists have demanded similar rates of return from buyout and buy-in deals. That is now changing, according to Mr Jones. "People realised that management buy-ins are more risky than they perceived. And they now appreciate the quality of an MBO where the buyout team has been with the company for a number of years. People are prepared to sharpen their pencils on buyouts because they recognise the quality of the transaction."

The problem with buy-ins, Mr Brooks says, is that they add too many additional risks to the equation; it makes more sense to finance the management team in a buyout.



Sheepish look: when John Ashcroft's Coloroll collapsed other companies suffered

Subsidiary lambs avoid the slaughter

Venture capital used to finance growth; increasingly it is about survival. Many in the industry believe venture capitalists can play a crucial role in providing struggling companies with the support they need at a time when the banks are pulling in their horns.

Patrick Bulmer, a director of Causeway Capital, the London investment managers, recommends that companies in financial difficulty should discuss their funding requirements with a venture capital provider at the earliest possible stage.

Causeway claims that it will respond to business plans from companies in difficulties within 48 hours, but has yet, to date, completed such a rescue deal. These deals are more complicated, involve more work and greater risks. However, Geoffrey Vero, also a director of Causeway, predicts that 20 to 30 companies could be refinanced with venture capital over the next six months.

According to Paul Brooks, the managing director of Prudential Venture Managers (PVM), most management teams leave it until too late

The fallout from failure can suck in healthy companies

before approaching a venture capitalist. Even so, PVM is concluding many deals in which management teams are raising capital to strengthen their own companies' balance sheets rather than paying to buy a company.

In many cases, otherwise viable companies are coming under threat because their source of funding is suddenly cut off through receivership of a parent company. The subsidiary may be profitable but, deprived of capital, will be quickly forced out of business.

In the case of a substantial receivership, dozens of small companies may be threatened by the failure of the parent. As one venture capitalist, based in the northwest, says: "Coloroll kept us all busy for six months."

In total, eight buyouts were spun out of the doomed home furnishings company, and a further eight out of Response Group, itself an earlier buyout

from Coloroll. Buyouts from the riskier than management buyouts it involves acquire without the comfort rantes provided by corporate seller. Even figures from the Ci Management Buyout search at Nottingham City suggest that in quarter of this year preceded 20 per buyouts were from ships. For 1990 the t about 13 per cent.

In rare cases, an backed by venture t may attempt to keep troubled group. Per most celebrated exa Candover's failed by Coloroll shortly befo into receivership. posed deal would volved an injection than £100 million company built up Ashcroft, but talks e broke down when tional £50 million of were discovered.

In the recession ment buyouts and bu failing by the dozen. l the tally was 88, alm times the figure for 1

Funds begin to dry up as tide turns on boom

Years of growth are giving way to a more critical view. Institutions find investments fail to live up to expectations.

AFTER a decade of growth, the industry is assessing its achievements and prospects.

In 1981, the industry invested £66 million. Eight years later, according to a Warwick Business School survey for the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) of 20 organisations, the annual investment by members had reached £1.42 billion, an average yearly growth rate of almost 50 per cent.

However, 1989 represents the high water mark of the seemingly unstoppable tide of venture capital funds.

In 1990, figures show that venture capital investment fell to £1.1 billion and the 1991 figure is also unlikely to match that for 1989. As in any fast growth industry during a period of retrenchment, the problems of over-capacity are starting to show.

The "problem" facing the industry in the Eighties was too much money chasing too few deals. The inevitable consequence was excessive competition, too-high prices and low returns.

As a result, many of the institutional investors attracted to unquoted equities two or three years ago are having second thoughts. The Warwick survey finds that 74 per cent of respondents believe that the realistic returns to institutional investors have been overvalued.

More than a third of respondents — 36 per cent — believe that current funds would result in poor profit performance that would not meet investors' current expectations.

The rapidly changing institutional attitude toward ven-

ture capital seems likely to be the driving force behind a future restructuring of the venture capital scene.

More than 40 per cent of respondents considered "scarcity of new funds for the industry" the biggest threat to venture capitalists over the next five years. Also seen as threats were "pressure on venture capitalists' profit margins" (36 per cent) and "increased pressure on venture capitalists to demonstrate investment performance" (32 per cent).

Many venture capitalists now believe that their less successful competitors will be forced to withdraw from the industry as institutional investors become more discriminating.

This process, respondents believe, will leave the bigger

SLIPPERINGS
A LIKELY side-effect of the decline in venture capital is a reduction in syndication among venture capitalists.

Some smaller firms are seen as having survived off the rich pickings that have come their way through syndication. The concentration among larger, dominant players will inevitably reduce this process.

Reciprocity — the "I'll scratch your back" factor — has already declined as a stated reason for syndication. Many in the industry see a continued decline in annual investment from the peak year of 1989. The median estimate is that the industry will decline by between 21 per cent and 50 per cent.

funds increasingly con a larger share of the tot committed by investo industry. Companies a track record of investors' internal rat turn expectations "an to experience incre severe difficulties in of new funding", acco the Warwick survey.

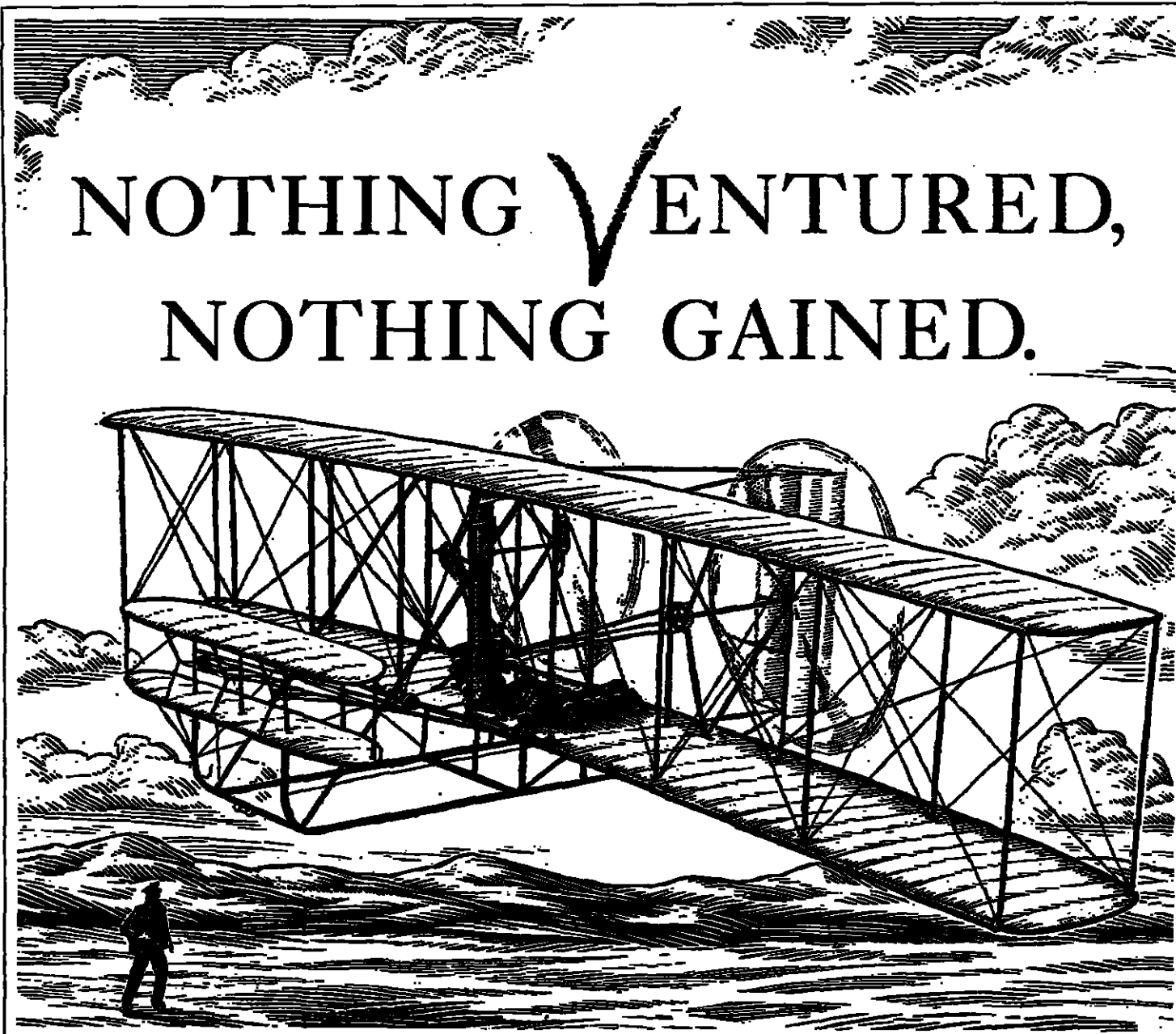
More than six out respondents believe management buyout remain the dominant g of venture capital ov next five years, taking half of committed fu 1995. Start up and ear deals are seen as a broadly at their curren of 15 per cent of funds.

The survey shows a ful and precocious ind the brink of maturity stormy adolescence.

Rationalisation consolidation will doubtly follow as the peripheral playe serious thought to motivation for being in the market. With cess completed and the only returned to a track, the industry's afidance will return.

Many in the in believe the period frenzied closing month Eighties was a neces painful, element of the ing process, which will salutary reminder of the damental principles of ture capital investmen many years to come.

But the return of that combination of easy c and a soaring stock m could mean the lessons short lived.



NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED.

There's no limit to what you can achieve with the right attitude — and the right support.

Orville Wright took to the skies over Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, in the first powered flight.

Chris Goring and the management team at August Systems raised £1 million in order to fund the expansion of their emergency fire and gas safety systems business in the UK and overseas.

Christopher Burnett achieved his goal of buying-out Silentnight Holdings' Upholstery Division through a mixture of equity and mezzanine provided by County NatWest Ventures and senior debt from our Finance Division.

And no sooner had Morris Bond and his fellow directors completed the complex demerger of the Beck Food Group than they raised £9.8 million in development capital to expand the company's manufacturing sites.

Orville Wright was supported not only by wire and canvas, but also by the skill and dedication of his brother Wilbur.

All of the other examples were backed by County NatWest Ventures.

In 1990, through our network of offices in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester, we invested no less than £75 million in over eighty businesses.

And since we led the majority of those transactions,

our skills in structuring and our ability to make an early commitment played an equally important role in helping our clients' plans to take wing.

This record goes some way to disprove the idea that buy-ins and buy-outs, and development capital investments, only make sense in a buoyant economy.

Quite the reverse. A time when prices are more realistic may well be a time which presents outstanding opportunities to managements with vision, ability and determination.

To help you imagine what you could achieve, we've prepared a 35-page brochure which gives detailed case histories of a wide variety of recent County NatWest Ventures investments.

For your copy, call Lynda Beveridge on (071) 375 5421, or write to her at County NatWest Ventures, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.



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MANAGEMENT BUY-OUTS & BUY-INS ■ DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL ■ EXISTING SHARE PURCHASE

Needs of new growth all on stony ground

ayout by the
agement can
ve business
rt-ups of the
essary funds

he development of the
management buyout
was one of the great
successes of the Brit-
ish community dur-
ing the Eighties. But many in
the industry are questioning
the search for ever
spectacular buyout
the original purpose of
capital has been lost,
it, obscured.

Buyout is widely seen as
the most efficient mechanism
for managing and
transferring ownership. But is it
venture capital? management
buyout provided risk capital
development of en-
terprises? The
worryes the industry.

ent survey showed that
the failure of the industry
the lack of support
to start-up and early-
stage developments,
the funding of high-
tech businesses.

Many theories are given for
the UK's relatively un-
impressive record in seed-
capital investment, particu-
larly in high-tech ventures.
One factor must be that during
the Eighties, investment in
management buyouts became
the venture capital industry's
proverbial licence to print
money.

The management team
being backed was, by its
nature, proven, experienced
and familiar with the com-
pany concerned.

With the booming economy
providing virtually guar-
anteed growth of at least 10
per cent a year and banks
falling over themselves to



Risky business: Michael Denny of the BVCA

But again the trend is not a
healthy one, because as in
1989 the figure was 38 per
cent.

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With the booming economy
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per cent a year and banks
falling over themselves to

vented from trading, an
unthinkable prospect for a
high-street bank. The risk,
given the size of the rewards
on offer, was too high.

Is the industry solely to
blame? Should the govern-
ment shoulder part of the
responsibility for encouraging
the development of the cor-
porate winners of tomorrow?

Mr Denny believes so.
Wearing his Northern Ven-
ture Managers hat, Mr Denny
has been behind the devel-
opment of a 12-strong chain of
regional venture capitalists all
committed to providing seed
capital around the country.

But he says venture capital-
ists cannot be expected to
provide the managers' costs as
well as the start up capital.

Some source of funding
has to be found to
provide management
remuneration so that
the venture capital can all be
invested. Mr Denny argues
that this is where government
money can play a role. The
idea of government subsidies
for management costs in start-
ups has been taken by the
BVCA to two Whitehall de-
partments over the past 18
months.

"By February," Mr Denny
says, "we were quite certain
that the idea did not have
government acceptance. It
was not an objective that tied
in with government philo-
sophy."

While these problems re-
main, start-ups and early-stage
investments are likely to re-
main the poor relations of
management buyouts and
buy-ins.

Some in the industry argue
that two separate but affiliated
venture capital bodies would
serve Britain's entrepreneurs
better than a unified BVCA.
The wall of hype erected by
the big management buyout
companies often makes it
difficult for the start-up
specialists to be heard.

A body representing the
interests of the true venture
capitalists may help redress
the balance.

£40m equity injection funds Knickerbox High Street expansion.

Knickerbox, the 12-strong chain of high-street clothing stores, has secured a £40m equity injection from its management and investors to fund a major expansion programme. The company, which was founded in 1985 by Michael Denny and his team, has now secured a £40m equity injection from its management and investors to fund a major expansion programme. The company, which was founded in 1985 by Michael Denny and his team, has now secured a £40m equity injection from its management and investors to fund a major expansion programme.



Who's next?

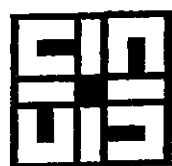
Candover manage some £400m funds for equity investment. The current economic climate is creating exciting opportunities for buy-outs and buy-ins. We are continually discussing potential opportunities with companies, managers and advisors. If you think you could be next, contact Roger Brooke or Doug Fairservice on 071 489 9848.

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£34,000,000

Management buy-out of
RPC Containers from
Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget



Transaction arranged, negotiated
and underwritten by

CIN Venture Managers Limited

Equity Underwriters

British Coal Pension Funds
British Rail Pension Schemes
Barclays Bank Pension Fund

Senior Debt underwritten by

National Westminster Bank



Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte acted as investigating accountants and Nabarro
Nathanson as Solicitors to the Company and Equity Underwriters.

All management buyouts are the same. Different.

Unfortunately many venture capitalists apply
the same set of rules to every financing requirement.

At Lloyds Development Capital, we treat each
business proposal differently.

We'll create a financing package specifically
tailored to suit your individual circumstances.

That's why we select people who are highly
competitive and driven by the challenge of each
individual case.

And who are flexible enough to deal with every
facet of equity finance.

It's their innovative way of thinking that provides
imaginative solutions for each business need.

And at the right price for your management
team. If you do well, so do we.

If you would like to know more, simply call
us in London 071-600 3226, Leeds 0532 441001 or
Birmingham 021-200 1787.

We'll undoubtedly make a difference to your buyout.

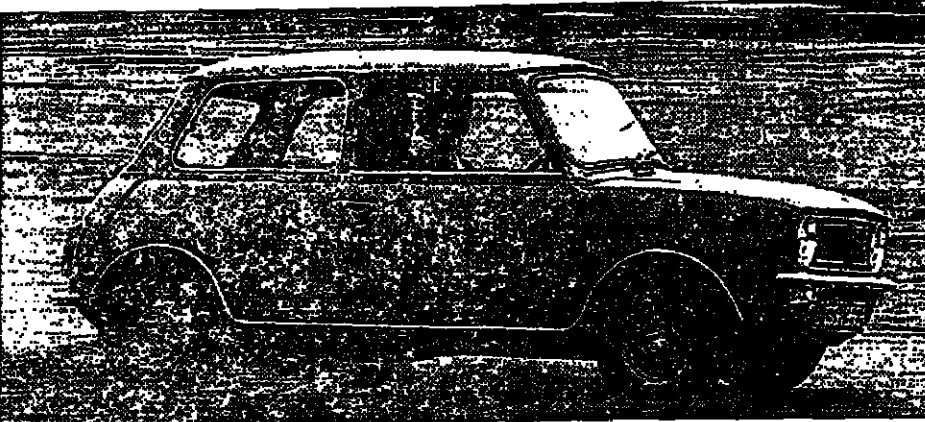
After all, we didn't become one of the UK's top
venture capital companies by thinking the same way
as the others.



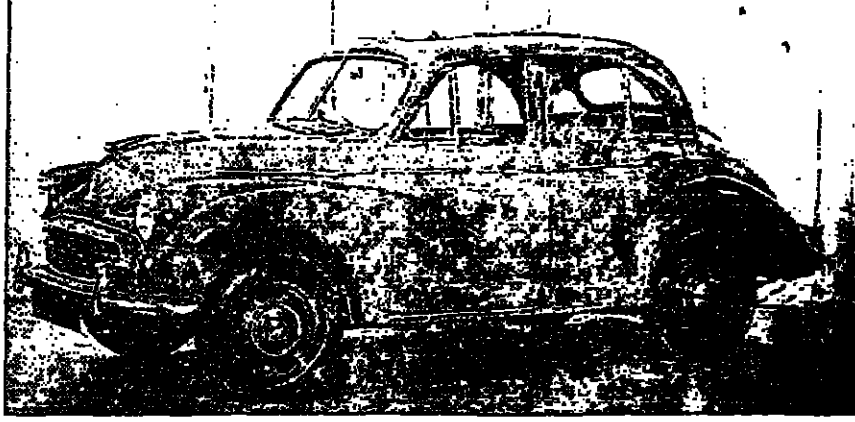
LLOYDS DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL

Lloyds Development Capital Ltd, 40 Chancery Street, London EC1Y 4XN, 071-600 3226. Leeds office: 27 Park Lane, Leeds LS1 2PL, 0532 441001. Birmingham office: Embassy House, 601 Birmingham Street, Birmingham B2 1BQ, 021-200 1787. Lloyds Development Capital Ltd are members of The Securities Association.

Old favourites in foreign parts



Going strong and going overseas: the Mini (left), as it was in 1969. Right: the Morris Minor, first seen in the Forties, could now go into production in the Third World



Minis are to be assembled in Venezuela and a Sri Lanka factory is to make Minor parts. Kevin Eason looks at two popular models

Old Minis and Morris Minors never die. They just seem to find more enthusiastic customers with every new generation. Both come from an age when cars were round and robust, less concerned with style than transporting their drivers on time and cheaply.

The years have, however, polished the image of the little runabouts, turning them from family workhorses into chic classics, so much so that both models are finding new buyers — and new demands for production.

In a small coup for British persistence, the Mini and Minor are being maintained in a form of production by foreign factories. The Morris Minor, last produced in 1971 by British Leyland, will live on, thanks to a new venture to make components in Sri Lanka.

Charles Ware, who runs a Morris Minor restoration centre in Bath, Avon, has joined forces with the aptly named Durable Car

Company, of Sri Lanka. The venture, he says, could pave the way for producing new Minors eventually.

At least 25,000 Minors are still being used in Sri Lanka, many of them as taxis, and in Britain, 80,000 motorists are registered as Minor owners.

Mr Ware says: "There is still a lot of demand for Morris Minor parts in Britain, and a lot of the cars are still being used in Sri Lanka and India. Preparing to build the car again out there would take some time, perhaps four years, but it could come about."

At the same time, Rover executives have signed an agreement with Facorra, a manufacturing company in Caracas, Venezuela, to allow production of 3,000 Minis a year for the South American

market. The deal overcomes strict import laws that would have prohibited the sale of the Mini direct from Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham. Instead, Longbridge will supply mechanical parts and Facorra will fit glass fibre bodies to the chassis at its own plant.

This will be the first time since 1970 that Rover, or British Leyland as it then was, has sold cars in South America, and the British company has ambitions to turn the Mini into the sort of cult vehicle that has kept output at Longbridge at 1,000 a week, after more than 31 years in production.

The Mini, introduced in 1959, set an engineering style that was followed by many other manufacturers. Even stringent new emis-

sion regulations have not killed off the little car. The Mini has become Japan's best-selling import. Rover plans improvements to the engine and exhaust system so that the car can keep running through the Nineties.

Mr Ware thinks he knows why the charm of the Minor and Mini lives on: the genius of the late Sir Alec Issigonis, the designer of both cars. Mr Ware says: "Cars such as the Mini and the Minor are real 'people cars'. They could not be designed today; new teams of designers work on a car, one of the reasons all cars look alike."

Issigonis was born in Smyrna and had barely seen a car until his family left Turkey after the first world war. He did not go to school but was passionate about all things mechanical. His passion found its

niche at Morris Motors in the Thirties.

Issigonis designed the Mini and Minor with only a small, hand-picked team and at a cost that seems unimaginable today, when a new car costs at least £1 billion to develop. Motoring legend has it that he drew the shape of the Mini on the back of a cigarette packet, a design that must have been inspired because more than five million were sold.

The Minor was similarly dreamt up, but the Issigonis eye for design was a match for today's computer-aided designer. Mr Ware points out that the Minor has a drag coefficient similar to that of the Metro, which came a decade after Minor production stopped.

Issigonis started work on the Minor during the war, but the funny, squat shape drew the fury of Lord Nuffield, the then Morris chairman, who sniffily called it "a poached egg". Morris went on to sell more than 1.5 million Minors.

ROADWISE

Two-wheel deaths fall

THE horrendous rate of motor-cycle casualties is showing signs of falling. The Institute of Motor-cycling says deaths were down by 11 per cent last year and the rate of decline could reach government targets of a 60 per cent reduction by the next century.

Dearer freedom

THE cost of reclaiming your car from the clamping teams has gone up. You now pay £32, instead of £30, to have a vehicle unclamped, and £85, not £80, to get it released from the police pound. Storage charges are £12 a day.

Feast of Fiestas

THE Ford Fiesta has become Europe's biggest selling car, 170,000 having left showrooms in the first three months of the year to take a 4.9 per cent share of the market. The Fiesta, made at Dagenham, Essex, Cologne, Germany, and Valencia, Spain, set a world record for the 340,000 cars sold in its first year of production.

As driven by...

ELTON John will be following his "Yellow Brick Road" in a new Honda NSX sports car. The NSX, Japan's first serious attempt at a sports car to match Ferrari and Porsche, is gaining favour in Hollywood. Michael Keaton, of *Batman* fame, and Michael Douglas, star of *Fatal Attraction*, both have one, while George Lucas, the man behind the *Star Wars* series, has two.

Road to revival

CAR prices have been slashed by 35 per cent in Argentina, where the government is trying to revive output and sales. President Carlos Menem has signed deals with Renault, Fiat and Peugeot, and with dealers, spare parts makers, suppliers and unions, guaranteeing a 9 per cent tax cut. As a result, Argentina's car output should double by the end of the year from its present annual 65,000.

Back your judgment

WATCH your reversing if you are taking the driving test. From this week the transport department requires drivers to be able to back into a parking space.

Safe loans

VAUXHALL has lent 51 Cavalier SRI saloons, worth more than £700,000, to Britain's police forces for evaluation as they seek ways of

cutting car crime. The cars, equipped with ultrasonic anti-theft and dead-end security systems, help police to publicise the cars for extra security.

In demand

NO WONDER the Japanese doing so well in the United States where the Honda Accord, top-selling car. A survey of dealers by J.D. Power and Associates, the influential motor industry group, showed 76 per cent would most like to hold a franchise, followed by 71 per cent for Toyota and 56 per cent for Mercedes.

History patented

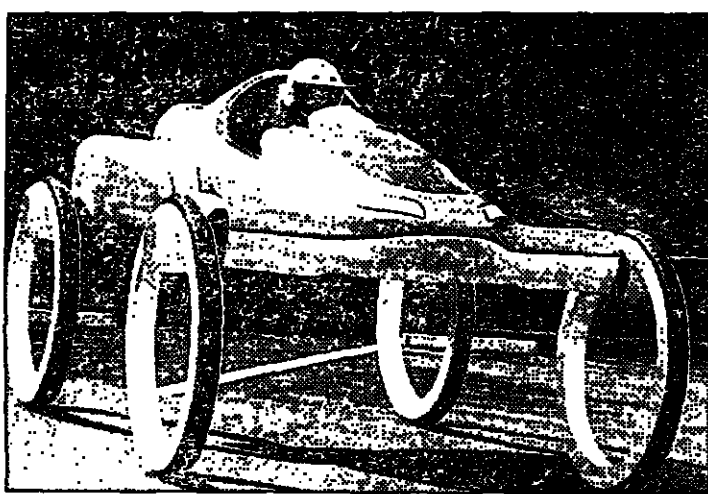
THE definitive history of wheel drive vehicles is not able from famed manufacturer Audi or Land Rover from the Patent Office. It has published a two-volume compilation of technical details, from the first steam-powered car in 1825 to the state-of-the-art technology report costs £400, including and postage. More data available from the Patent Office 01-829 6512.

Warning: jams k



SPARE a thought for the pressed drivers of Thailand jams are making them says Arun Chaoavanasi, the King Mongkut hospital estimates 60 per cent of long-distance truck drivers amphetamines and other drugs, and wants routine psychological tests for drivers. The biggest worry is drivers who use vehicles as kamikaze because this method is finding a gun to blow brains, the doctor adds. Thousands of people were killed in traffic accidents in 1990, a nation of 60 million per death toll is almost double number in Britain, whose number is similar in size.

Cars of the future that will never get there



Toyota teases a car with hubs that "float" within the wheels

AS a cluster of enthusiastic journalists gathered around Volkswagen's latest concept car, the company man nodded his head gloomily and admitted: "They are not really for production."

The Varios I and II cars were the sort of design exercise that has become customary at every motor show (Kevin Eason writes). Designers are allowed the freedom to make up their vision of the cars of the future, and the results are always fascinating. In the case of Volkswagen, they lead to models that I am sure would attract customers now.

Volkswagen calls the Varios "fun cars", and we can assume they are back under wraps somewhere. My VW man gave an answer typical of the manu-

facturers by admitting that the cars were concepts, not showroom products.

They seem to know that we are all bored to death by the lookalikes in the showrooms, underlined by the continuing popularity of quirky cars such as the Mini. Yet manufacturers are unwilling to take the big leap forward into offering models such as the Varios.

The next generation of designs is, however, on its way, and from an unlikely source. In the past, the Japanese have been heavily criticised for their conservatism and their inability to innovate, instead copying from western styles. That is no longer true. Designs from Japanese studios, many of them staffed by Europeans, indicate that Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, Mits-

bishi and Honda will take us on the next great design adventure.

For example, which badge was on the best two-seater sports car of last year? Ford, MG, BMW? No, Mazda had the character to build the MX-5, a car that is as British in its styling as Yorkshire pud, but which Britain has failed to manufacture.

If you are still under the impression that the Japanese have no sense of adventure in their styling, look what happens when Toyota gives its engineers their heads in an annual "Idea Expo".

This year they produced cars with hubs that can operate at any point on the wheels and a car that, when parked, can be turned on its end to double as a front door to a town house.

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Large firms urged to pay promptly

By DEREK HARRIS

WHETHER the Confederation of British Industry will eventually throw its weight behind a campaign to introduce legislation to penalise late payment by big companies for goods and services supplied by small businesses, is anyone's guess.

A working party, being formed at the moment, might not be able to hammer out a remedial policy before the summer. In the meantime, driven by the rigours of recession, big companies are showing an increasing propensity to pass their cashflow problems to small suppliers, those least able to take such treatment.

Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council (SFC), said late payment was probably the greatest single concern of small businesses. Claims that late payments are endangering the survival of nearly one in five small businesses have prompted the SFC to make the issue its top priority for this year.

As a result, there is likely to be moral pressure on CBI members, who are already being encouraged by Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president, to stick to good payment practices. Big companies that do so are being asked to set out their procedures so that they can be seen to lead by example.

However, some members believe legislation is the only option left. Mr O'Connor has doubts about the effectiveness of legislation, saying terms should be left to

individual companies. Legislation might set out a longer term for contracts than might otherwise be achieved, putting greater pressure on small businesses while only bringing to book the occasional delinquent big company.

Mr O'Connor said many smaller businesses could help themselves by improving their financial management, including tightening credit controls.

Pressure from Europe may speed up the legislation bandwagon but, for the moment, one of the most useful ideas being pursued by the SFC is to encourage closer working relationships between big and small companies.



"It's an April shower"

If cookies be the food of love

By RODNEY HOBSON

CARRYING two buckets of frozen pastry mix on an early morning Tube seems an unpromising start for a small business. It is certainly less romantic than the name Younglove Jewel Cookies suggests.

Like many budding entrepreneurs, Lee Norlund found that unorthodox measures are called for if a new business is to succeed.

Now living in Swiss Cottage, London, Mr Norlund comes from California, but he fell in love with a Yorkshire girl, Bridget, now his wife, who was visiting America. He says: "We began a long-distance romance. I came over here to pursue her. I would save money, quit my job, and stay until the money ran out."

He was not a natural businessman, but was desperate to find a job in Britain. He says: "I had to create my own job. I had noticed cookies on sale here during previous visits and I knew I could make better with my grandmother's recipe. I thought if they could sell the ones in the shops, mine would surely be successful."

He put all his savings into chocolate chips and shipped six tons from America. He says: "Chocolate bars over here are fine but when you bake chocolate you are looking for different qualities. South American cocoa beans have a more robust flavour that stands up to cooking better than African beans."

He stored the chocolate in a wine warehouse, reasoning that a controlled temperature would suit



Taking a bite at business: Bridget and Lee Norlund tasting the wares at Younglove Jewel Cookies

his product. It took him six months to find the other ingredients for his cookie mix.

Mr Norlund realised that marketing was crucial. He found that small bakers were slow to respond to a new product, especially a foreign one. The head buyer at Fortnum and Mason was

also discouraging, mindful of the store's reputation for quality. So Mr Norlund took some of his cookie mix to the famous grocer's shop's head chef who baked it, liked it and put the cookies on the counter. The next day the shop placed an order.

Having a high-profile customer

helped attract other buyers, and Mr Norlund has changed bakeries several times to expand his operations.

He says: "I had no idea what it took to set up a business but I had confidence in the product and I did not think of the possibility that it would not work."

BRIEFINGS

WHEN the recession looms edge, bigger companies that have been cutting back on management strength could face a need for executive help. This is the belief of the Association of Temporary Interim Executive Services, which has produced its first yearbook. The association's ten member offer advice on interim management, leasing executives or a potentially providing executive help. One member is GMS Consultancy, which has a comprehensive database of more than 3,000 senior executives available as independent consultants and interim managers. GMS developed a six-and-a-half training workshop for executives wishing to train consultants. The next programme for executives is due to set up as consultants start May 12. More details can be obtained from GMS at 481 Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Telephone: 0582-666 Enquiries to Leonard A. ATIES, 36-38 Mortimer St London. Telephone: 071-3234

The closing date for the dusty department's Small F Merit Award for Research Technology (Smart) scheme which aims to stimulate innovation in firms with fewer than 100 employees, is on April 12, year the number of awards has been increased from 150 to 200 with an improved maximum value of £45,000 for stage 1 (feasibility studies) and £60,000 for stage 2 (prototype development). Applications are available from regional offices of the and the Scottish, Welsh Northern Ireland offices.

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Answer L - - - - - B

Question (3). A famous American millionaire refused?

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Liability for poll tax despite claim

By Bristol Magistrates' Court

Lord Justice Watkins

Justice Evans

At March 27

unity chargepayer was

pay the full amount of

charge although he

claiming that the

local authority ob-

liability order in the

case.

Queen's Bench Di-

visional Court held in

an application by

James and Carol Young

for a review of the de-

cision of the Bristol

Magistrates' Court

on 16, 1990, making

an order to pay the full

amount of their community

charge.

Section 76 of the Commu-

nity Charge Act 1974

(No 138) provides: "(1)

where a person is

entitled to a commu-

nity charge, the appor-

tion of the charge shall

be made in accordance

with the provisions of

section 76 of the Act."

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Dunwoody in sparkling form with 31-1 double

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Dunwoody continued in inspired form on the opening afternoon of the Liverpool Grand National meeting yesterday when landing a double of over 31-1 on Aquilifer and Sparkling Flame.

The man of the moment was virtually handed the day's feature race, the Martell Cup Chase, on a plate as Peter Scudamore discarded Aquilifer in favour of the beaten Gold Cup favourite, Celtic Shot.

Yesterday's even money favourite cost one unfortunate backer £30,000 before finishing a well-beaten fourth after a bad mistake at the eleventh fence. However, Scudamore said: "I don't regret it. Celtic Shot gave me the biggest win of my career when winning the Champion Hurdle and I remained loyal to him."

Celtic Shot was not the only big name to disappoint in the Martell Cup. Arctic Call, the winner of the Hennessy last autumn, made too many serious jumping errors before being pulled up at the fifth fence from home.

From the first fence in the straight, Graham McCourt and Norton's Coin looked long odds on to record their first win together since the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup when moving easily alongside Aquilifer. But the rider from the Welsh valleys made an appalling blunder at the second fence from home and then virtually refused at the final jump.

Slogging on gamely for Dunwoody, Aquilifer eventually scrambled home by one and a half lengths from Norton's Coin.

Delighted by the success of his tactics, Dunwoody said: "Aquilifer jumped really well in the back straight. But I then steadied him up and took a pull because I've ridden Norton's Coin and know how much he hates being in front."

A crestfallen Sirell Griffiths confirmed Dunwoody's thinking. "It's very disappointing. But as I've often said, Norton's Coin does much better in a small field when his jockey can bury him."

Martin Pipe must now be in with a sporting chance of becoming the first National Hunt trainer to earn £1 million for his owners. Aquilifer's winnings of £17,062 have now carried the wizard of Wellington past the £900,000 mark.

Confirming that Scudamore would be on board the heavily

backed mudlark Bonanza Boy in tomorrow's Grand National, Chester Barnes, Pipe's assistant, said that no decision would be taken until declaration time today about Omerta, the winner of Monday's Irish Grand National. "All we know for certain is that Adrian Maguire can't ride him again as he's not qualified."

If fitness had been the name of Dunwoody's game on Aquilifer, then the crescendo of controlled power he showed when driving Sparkling Flame up to challenge Esha Ness at the second fence from home in the Mumm Club Novices' Chase was equally remarkable. Striding clear, the Nicky Henderson-trained seven-year-old eventually beat Esha Ness by eight lengths.

Apart from Dunwoody, McCourt also rode two winners. In the opening Oddbins Hurdle, McCourt was seen at his strongest before driving the heavily backed 9-2 favourite, Merano, to the front close home for a narrow win over Ru Valentino and Leading Role.

Unfortunately, the stewards decided that McCourt had been too energetic and they suspended him for two days for using the whip too vigorously on the winner. The jockey's sentence is to run from April 13 to April 14. In the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle, Chirkpar, runner-up to Oh So Risky at Cheltenham, was a short-priced favourite but could only finish sixth behind Montpelier Lad, home Neale Doughty brought home two-and-a-half lengths clear of Runway Romance.

Both Brendan Powell and Lorcan Wier were injured in falls at the fifth flight. Powell was taken to Walton Hospital after being kicked in the stomach as was Wier, whose ribs were severely bruised in the fall. Wier was retained in hospital.

One of the most remarkable sights of the afternoon was that of Andrea Farrell driving 1-3 Henry past the post in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy five lengths ahead of Doughty on The Antares.

Mrs Farrell, the daughter of the winning trainer Peter Beaumont, is not the first woman to ride a winner over the enormous Grand National fences. Caroline Beasley already having won the Foxhunters' Trophy on Eliogarty in 1986.

Pitmans chase a glorious double

Garrison Savannah attempts to become only the second horse to win the Gold Cup and Grand National in the same year tomorrow at Aintree. Michael Seely finds Jenny Pitman and her jockey son, Mark, confident on the eve of the race

Jenny Pitman scrutinised Garrison Savannah carefully. An athletic, dark brown horse with an elegant head, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner stood on the Mandown gallop at Lambourn. A strong south westerly wind with the soft rain across the top of the hill, was rustling the gelding's almost black mane and tail as he shifted restlessly from foot to foot.

The eight-year-old's air of robust well-being after his usual solitary work was obvious. He showed no signs of any ill-effects after that desperate struggle against The Fellow at Cheltenham, four weeks ago. "The next day he looked a bit like a man who's had a hard game of squash," the trainer said. "But he's come bouncing back and is as well as he was before the Gold Cup."

Garrison Savannah certainly faces a formidable task as he attempts to become the only horse apart from Golden Miller in 1934 to complete the Gold Cup-Grand National double in the same year. The continuing wet weather at Aintree yesterday saw Garrison Savannah displaced as favourite for the first time by the proven soft-ground specialist, Ritus. However, Mark Pitman still had encouraging words for prospective backers of the supposed handicap certainty. "He's not just a good ground horse, although he prefers it that way. He'll go through the soft all right. After all, he acted in it at Haydock in December."

Those incredible scenes at Cheltenham when Jenny Pitman watched her son, Mark, give the stable its second Gold Cup win and make amends to the family, not only for Toby Tobias's defeat last year, but also for her former husband Richard's seconds on Pendil and Southsayer, were the stuff of legend.

Now, of course, Mark Pitman will be seeking to erase the bitter memory of those final strides in 1973 when his father and the mighty Crisp were finally collared by Brian Fletcher and the dogged Red Rum. Even the sometimes-dramatic Mrs Pitman shies away from the thoughts of such heady emotions. "So much can go wrong. You could drive yourself mad just thinking about it. I'm going there with an open mind, just hoping and praying for the best."

On paper, Garrison Savannah has 16lb and upwards in hand of his opponents, as the National weights were framed before Cheltenham. But the reality lies in those four-and-a-half energy-sapping miles over 30 of the world's most daunting obstacles.

Cleverness and a certain cat-like agility, allied to boldness, are the



Blowing up a storm: Jenny Pitman watches Garrison Savannah in the run up to what she hopes will be a storming Grand National display

pre-requisites for survival at Aintree. And all that the world has seen of Garrison Savannah to date, has been the bravery and dash in the Gold Cup.

However, the trainer considers the stable's pride and joy to be the ideal type for the job. "I don't like those big, long-striding horses at Liverpool, that have got to stand off everything. Those Tingle Creek-like horses are brilliant, but the difference between being brilliant and being on the deck isn't much at Liverpool."

In 1983, Mrs Pitman had her first taste of fame and fortune in her own right when Corbiere won the National. "He was as clever as a monkey. He didn't want anyone telling him what to do. He had already made up his mind by the time he met his fences. 'Garry' is built like him. He's Corbiere in another jacket. He only stood off so far at the last two at Cheltenham, because Mark had to ask him for everything."

Michael Bowley, the trainer's son-in-law, rides the difficult-to-train Golden Freeze, who was having only his second run of the season behind Katabatic in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. When at his peak, two seasons ago,

he finished runner-up in the Mackeson Gold Cup and also successfully conceded 29lb to Four Trix over 2½ miles over the Midmay at Liverpool.

"He ran well enough at Cheltenham and is in great shape," Mrs Pitman said. "He's an entirely different type to 'Garry'. He's very bold and could jump more in the style of Crisp. He's easier to ride on the track, but a real handful at home."

Team Challenge, the stable's third runner, has completed the course in the last two seasons and could make it third time lucky for Ben De Haan, the winning jockey on Corbiere.

Producing Garrison Savannah fit to win the Gold Cup without a run since the previous December must represent one of the finest training feats of Mrs Pitman's remarkable career. "He has only worked once with other horses since Haydock. I tightened the screws gently. Sometimes he's disappointed and I had to loosen them a bit. In the paddock at Cheltenham I told the owners, 'I can't tell you exactly where he is, but he's fitter than he was at Haydock and his mind is so well

that he wants to fight the world'."

Jealous of her reputation as one of the country's top four trainers, Mrs Pitman is disappointed that, despite her prize-money haul of just under £350,000 this campaign, she has only saddled 37 winners compared with her personal record of 93 last season. "The virus has given us all nightmares. I used to go all evening without speaking a word and then get up in the night and roam around. In January we were struggling to find a runner. In February I was able to pick out a few, but it's only been in the last week or so that I've been able to pick out more or less what I want."

Mrs Pitman's expressive face radiates a calm beauty that comes from an inner strength and self-confidence that has seen her overcome so many hurdles. But, characteristically, she still complains about the effects of the recession. "People say I'm a survivor. They probably think that I don't bleed like anyone else. And that when anyone touches me, I'm as cold as a frog. I could have made life a lot easier for myself, but I've always stuck by my principles. All I can promise my owners is a square deal."

The trainer's long-term ambition is centred around Mark. "I'm very disappointed if he didn't. He's got that feel for a horse you can't manufacture. When he was ten or 11 he felt Artistic Prince and told me that the horse over at the knee. I thought 'cheeky little monkey', but he's right. I think he'll do better than because he'll be more diplomatic."

Whatever his future as a trainer deserves full marks for courage he has shown in return to the saddle so quickly, cracking his pelvis at Cheltenham.

Like his mother, the jockey that Garrison Savannah will well to Aintree. "I've ridden last two Nationals on Gainsa so far haven't got further half-way. But I'm looking forward riding 'Garry'. He gets pier height at his fences, eyes then and is a natural jumper. He's the fastest thing on four legs, b gallops and can put himself in

"You've got to have all the that's going. Someone can your horse down through no fa its own. No one has done the d since 1934 but, who knows, it r be my turn on Saturday."

BASEBALL

Davis's durability crucial

By ROBERT KIRLEY

LOU Piniella, the Cincinnati manager, hopes his Reds can retain the World Series championship they won when they upset Oakland in four games last October. The major league season begins on April 8 when the Reds host the Houston Astros.

"It wasn't a fluke," Piniella said of taking the title in his first campaign with the Reds. "This is a good little ball club." Nobody has repeated as champions since the 1977 and 1978 New York Yankees, for whom Piniella was a player. The Reds rely on strong starting pitching, but their best player, Eric Davis, an outfielder, has not recovered fully from an injury incurred in the World Series. His durability over the 162-game schedule will be crucial.

The Los Angeles Dodgers aim to overtake the Reds in the National League West. Darryl Strawberry signed with the Dodgers (\$20.2 million for five years) as a free agent after seven All-Star seasons with the New York Mets. The outfielder gives a powerful team another potent

bat. One of the biggest names in the game, Strawberry will want to impress in his home town. He, Eddie Murray and Kal Daniels are all capable of hitting injuries. Frank Viola, a 20-game winner last year, has bone chips in his left elbow and may have problems finishing the season. Less than a week into the exhibition season, another left-hander, Sid Fernandez, broke his wrist and will be out of action till mid-season.

In the American League East, the Toronto Blue Jays are vastly improved. They have pitching, speed and can score. Boston, led by the pitching of Roger Clemens, and the Baltimore Orioles could contend.

In the American League West, Oakland are still the best. Forget about their performance in the World Series last year. As usual, they will overwhelm opponents.

1991 PREDICTIONS: Cincinnati wins National League East; Los Angeles wins American League West; New York wins American League East; Toronto wins American League West; Oakland wins World Series; Oakland to beat Los Angeles.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
Barclays League
Third division

Tranmere v Rotherham

GM Vauxhall Conference
Northwich v Colchester

PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Stoke v Hull (7.00).

SUNDAY LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Derry City (7.45).

BASS HURON CUP: Semi-final: Ards v Portadown (at The Oval).

RUGBY UNION

HERBERT WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Tredegar v Cross Keys (7.00).

SCHOOLS' INTERNATIONAL: Wales v Ireland (Gwent, 6.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LADDER ALLIANCE CHALLENGE CUP: First division: Northwich v Colchester (7.30). First division: Hull KR v Chester: Leeds v Featherstone: Widnes v Salford: Wigan v Hull (6.00).

OTHER SPORT

SMOOTHER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs, Co. Kildare).

SWIMMING: Welsh Masters (Pontypool).

BY THIS

Denise Tingey's suggestion for a sporting day out

HOCKEY: Nationwide Anglia Cup Day: The first mixed hockey international between England and Wales, organised by the Mixed Hockey Association (MHA), takes place as a curtain-raiser to the Nationwide Anglia Cup final on Sunday, and is being seen as an important step to promoting the sport in Britain.

Wales will be captained by Margaret Meadow, capped 84 times for her country, and now making a comeback to the international game after a four-year absence, while England take the field with former under-21 international, Richard Most, in charge.

keen to overcome the disappointment of losing in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup, and if they beat Hove on Sunday, will have an excellent chance of the double.

EVENT DETAILS: Luton Town's football ground at Kenilworth Road plays host to the matches, with the mixed international 'push-back' at noon and the Cup final at 2.30. Luton can be reached easily by rail (to Luton) and road (junction 11 of the M1). Ample car parking and refreshment facilities will be available. Admission is £4 or £2 for adults and £2 or £1 for pensioners and children under 16.

CYCLING

Farrell seeks record

STEVE Farrell, who led from start to finish in last year's Star Trophy series of 12 road races, finds himself in the unaccustomed position of being without any points in the new season's competition (Peter Bryan writes).

The Stoke rider failed to score in last month's Essex grand prix, "lost" in the finishing bunch of 70 after making an unsuccessful victory bid a mile from the end when the sprint — and Star lead — was taken by Mark Gornall, the hill farmer.

Farrell will be chasing his first

points on Sunday in the grand prix international Beaconsfield. Victory was uppermost in his mind, hilly, 107-mile route. He of only two riders to have the race three times (1987 and 1990) and wants to go the record books as the first to succeed three years in succession.

His task will be formidable the race includes Gornall brother Alan, Pete Longo, the 100-mile time trial pion, and Paul Curran instated as an amateur.

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12 Seagram	33 Yahoo
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Conditions ideal for atabatic to claim nother rich prize

By MANDARIN
SHAE PHILLIPS

10,000 added to the Glenlivet Melling being billed as the half-milers' Gold verpool today.

ok Again, Blazing Katabatic, Sabin Du Waterloo Boy all air ground, so this limited grade one off to the best such.

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Selections

- By Mandarin**
- 2.00 Gold Options.
 - 2.35 Katabatic.
 - 3.10 Uncle Ernie.
 - 3.45 Pectoral.
 - 4.20 Field Conqueror.
 - 4.50 GRANVILLE AGAIN (nap).
 - 5.20 Ramplolli.
- By Thunderer**
- 2.00 Farmies Boy.
 - 2.35 Waterloo Boy.
 - 3.10 Uncle Ernie.
 - 3.45 TORWADA (nap).
 - 4.20 Kanyenda Stag.
 - 4.50 Granville Again.
 - 5.20 Hornblower.

By Michael Seely

3.10 Uncle Ernie. 4.50 GRANVILLE AGAIN (nap)

Brian Beel's selection: 4.20 Field Conqueror.

Going: good to soft (National course); good to soft (Midway course); good, good to firm on home bend (hurdles)

2.0 JANNEAU ARMAGNAC HANDICAP CHASE (23,080: 3m 10) (7 runners)

2.0 JANNEAU ARMAGNAC HANDICAP CHASE (23,080: 3m 10) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

2.35 GLENLIVET MELLING CHASE (Grade I: 242,030: 2m 40) (7 runners)

2.35 GLENLIVET MELLING CHASE (Grade I: 242,030: 2m 40) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

3.10 PERIER JOUET NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: 29,894: 2m) (10 runners)

3.10 PERIER JOUET NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: 29,894: 2m) (10 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

3.45 MARTELL HURDLE HANDICAP (212,178: 2m 40) (17 runners)

3.45 MARTELL HURDLE HANDICAP (212,178: 2m 40) (17 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

3.50 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

3.50 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

4.00 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

4.00 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

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FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

5.00 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

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FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

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FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

6.00 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

6.00 FALLOU DEER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,448: 2m 10) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

RACING 35

4.20 SEAGRAM FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: 25,667: 2m 50) (27 runners)

- 4.20 SEAGRAM FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: 25,667: 2m 50) (27 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

4.50 SEAGRAM 100 PIPERS TOP NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: 29,866: 2m) (10 runners)

4.50 SEAGRAM 100 PIPERS TOP NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: 29,866: 2m) (10 runners)

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

5.20 SEAGRAM CHAMPION NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (24,893: 2m) (16 runners)

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FORM FOCUS

ALONE SUCCESS 22 (J.P. McQuinn) 9-11-10. M. Dwyer 88

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SPORT

League anxious that power will transfer to FA

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SIX MONTHS ago, the Football League suggested that the game in England should speak with one voice. That idea promises to be put into practice sooner than the League imagined, but not in the manner it had foreseen. By next season, the Football Association's position as the lone governing body could be so strong as to be indisputable.

On Monday, the FA Council, as well as discussing the merits of the League's proposals, is to be presented with a blueprint for football. Produced originally in December by Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, it is known to be extensively amended since.

The League fears that, far from being a straight forward counter proposal to refine the structure and organisation of the game, the amended document could contain the most radical plans ever put forward.

Instead of agreeing to form a partnership and share the balance of power, Kelly could insist that the FA alone hold the ultimate responsibility and dictate future policy.

If the suspicions of the League's officials are correct, by June they could be merely one voice among many answering to the FA.

The Council is not empowered to accept either of the proposals. It can recommend only that one of them be put before an extraordinary general meeting, for which 52 days' notice must be given.

The League recognises that its option is the outsider.

Bill Fox, the League's president, asked if he could be given a preview of the blueprint. "It has nothing to do with you," he was told. "It is our response to your proposals and you will become involved later on." Implicit within the frosty response is a clear indication of which proposal

will be favoured. In an attempt to steal Kelly's thunder, League officials have stated their case in seven counties and earlier this week to invited journalists. They argue that there must be equality in an enlarged executive committee. In other words, they should be offered six of the 12 planned seats.

They are prepared to concede the chairmanship, and with it the casting vote, to the FA for an experimental period of two years. "We are not questioning the FA's right to be the governing body," Fox said yesterday, "but we feel we should have an input into the general policy."

The FA is thought to be considering giving the League both additional new seats and raising its representation to four. That could widen the rift between the two bodies.

"If it is not 50-50 we can't carry the 92 League clubs," he said. "If the Council thinks that everything is rosy, then so be it. The problem is that some senior members of the FA are entrenched. We want to take the game forward into the next century. The blueprint may be the answer. We don't know. We would accept it but, unless there is equality, it would show that the FA is not interested in progressing. A great opportunity would have been missed. It would be not so much status quo as a step backwards."

Yet members of the League's own management committee have recently been responsible for introducing two retrogressive ideas. The concept of the Zenith Data Systems Cup was as crass a notion as restoring the first division to 22 clubs next season.

"Increasing the size of the first division was wrong," David Dent, the League's

secretary, said. "We know it's wrong, the FA knows it's wrong, but neither of us was strong enough to stop it. If there was equal representation, we would have said it was a non-starter. If anything, we would have reduced it."

Unwittingly, Dent was condemning his own organisation. The FA can justifiably argue that if the League cannot control its own self indulgence or prevent public bickering among its committee members, it does not deserve to be allowed to hold half of the reins.

Football has paid dearly for the divisive approach. "We know that if there was equality, totality of sponsorship would bring in considerable sums of money at all levels," Arthur Sandford, the League's chief executive, said. It is no exaggeration to suggest that, without affecting present sponsorships, more than £25 million would immediately be made available.

Kelly would presumably have to convince the clubs, especially Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, that the FA can on its own attract such huge sums.

Fifa, the world's governing body, and the government, among others, would welcome a united front. Speeding up the process of modernisation, would enhance the nation's chances of staging the European championship in 1996.

The League's representatives claim that if they had not taken the initiative last October, "nothing would have happened." Ironically, if they had maintained their silence they might next season have retained a louder and more prominent voice.

Hodde moves in, page 37



Aquifer (right) battles it out with Norton's Coin after clearing the last fence in the Martell Cup Chase, at Aintree yesterday, before going on to win

The Thinker put down after freak accident

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Thinker, winner of the snowbound Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1987 and a well-backed outsider for tomorrow's Seagram Grand National, died following a freak accident at home yesterday.

The tragedy cast a shadow over the opening day of the annual Aintree meeting, which was accentuated when Smith's Cracker was killed in the sixth race.

Mark Pitman, rider of Smith's Cracker, was catapulted from the saddle when the hurdler fell and broke his neck but the young jockey emerged unscathed. The fall came less than three weeks after Pitman was taken to hospital with a cracked pelvis and bad bruising incurred in a fall at the Cheltenham festival.

On an incident-packed day at Aintree, where there were 12 fallers, Brendan Powell was taken to hospital under police escort after being kicked in the stomach when Beau Rou fell in the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle. Although he returned later to the course, he suffered severe stomach pains when having a drink and is thought to be suffering from a perforated stomach.

The Thinker, Arthur Stephenson's veteran chaser, shattered a hind leg and had to be put down while cantering

back after an early morning gallop at Bishop Auckland. Third in the 1989 Grand National when carrying top weight of 11st 10lb, the 13-year-old had been heavily supported over the past few days from 33-1 down to 16-1.

The highlight of his 38-race career was winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup which was nearly postponed due to heavy snow showers. He won 11 races, all chases, and more than £135,000 in prize-money.

Strong winds and occasional heavy showers buffeted Liverpool yesterday and trainers of National horses needing good ground, including last year's winner, Mr Frisk, were in a quandary last night over whether to run them.

Gordon Richards, trainer of 6-1 favourite Rimsus, has no such doubts or worries and was full of confidence about his chances after winning the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle with Montpelier Lad. "I have got the form, the right weight and jockey and I have got the horse right. Rimsus is top of the pops," he said.

Rimsus, third last year on ground firmer than he liked, will have a final career this morning. "I didn't have him as well last year as I do this time."

Peter Scudamore plans to ride Bonanza Boy and with

the going on the National course reported by jockeys to be on the soft side, support for the dual Welsh National winner continued yesterday and he is now a firm 8-1 third favourite.

Docklands Express was cut from 25-1 to 16-1 by Coral after substantial support, including one bet of £1,500. The bookmakers also trimmed Garrison Savannah, winner of last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup, from 8-1 to 7-1 after accepting two £2,000 bets.

William Hill reported backing for three outsiders and halved Golden Minstrel's odds to 50-1, chopped Crammer from 40-1 to 33-1 and cut Ten of Spades from 25-1 to 20-1.

With the ground officially good to soft on the National course, Won't Be Gone Long is now a doubtful starter. If he does not make the line-up, Jamie Osborne will ride Master Bob, while John White is booked for Ten of Spades. Mr Frisk will be declared to run this morning but a final decision about his participation, dependent on the weather, will be left to the last minute. Tracey Bailey, wife of the chaser's trainer said.

Pitmans chase, page 36
Inspired Dunwoody, page 36
Race cards, page 37

Dick demands loyalty from top performers to Turin despite c

FRANK Dick, the national director of coaching, yesterday called for unprecedented punishment of top athletes who refuse to compete for Britain in important team championships.

If his proposal is accepted, Liz McColgan, who finished third in the recent world cross-country championship, could be barred from competing in the world championships in Tokyo in August because of her decision on Wednesday to reject a place in Britain's team for the European Cup in Frankfurt in June.

"What I want to have clearly established is that when the nation needs you, you shouldn't walk away," Dick said.

Dick sent a letter to other officials yesterday, recommending that athletes who turned down selection for team events like the European and World Cups "should not expect to be considered for selection" for the next important individual championship.

But the recommendation, which will be debated by selectors within the next few weeks, is bound to spark controversy within the sport. Eamonn Martin, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, immediately

responded. "It smacks of blackmail," he said.

McColgan, speaking from her present training base in Florida, hit back saying it was "stupid" and "will not be blackmail."

But McColgan said she had turned the 10,000 metres plan was prepared to run second-string event, the metres, in Frankfurt, always said I'm prepared to do the 3,000 if they want," she said. He Yvonne Murray was European 3,000 metres Split last year and would precede at that distance.

Saddened by McColgan's decision and determined Britain field the best possible in Frankfurt, Dick believed that Britain's other top performers had a "stability" to the task.

"I shall discuss the matter with the British Boardman and selectors with a view to proposing that if a chooses not to represent her country on an event which clearly has national team priority, it athlete should not be considered for the major championships have similar high priority individuals," Dick said.

Proctor steps in as guiding hand

By MARTIN SEABY

MIKE Proctor, the former South African all-rounder, arrived yesterday at Northamptonshire, where he becomes director of cricket on a three-year contract, intent on giving the club the direction it has been lacking in recent years.

Proctor, aged 44, said: "When I was offered the opportunity to return to English county cricket I jumped at the chance because my 13 years at Gloucestershire were the happiest of my life. I loved the county scene, the camaraderie and the English style and it will be a pleasure to make a contribution to this team which, on paper, is a very good one."

"At first glance it would seem that they have lacked direction since their four county championship wins all came when Allan Lamb was captain. When he was away on England duty they appeared to lose their way and I am here to put them right."

Proctor's distinguished career with Western Province, Natal and Gloucestershire produced more than 1,400 wickets at 19 runs each and he averaged almost 40 with the bat. But he is as much remembered for his redoubtable spirit and lion-hearted attitude and that is what Northamptonshire will want

to rub off on their tea. "We have always been an over the wicket every three," the captain said, "good but is not pro and those breezy, blades don't mean matches. We hope a steady ship and a better all round balance."

Proctor, looking bronzed, will take charge of the side which includes internationals, Wayne Kevin Curran, Greg as well as Lamb.

"I believe cricket is game and everyone work for one another it enjoyable and such he said. You have disciplined and produce to win in all competition first sight it seems to Northamptonshire I learn to bite the bullet stuck in. It also appears have lost direction they really should be things. That is now up Northamptonshire hefty wage bill, but Covendale, the club's planning we have we have a team working. Mike Proctor has been brought in to turn talent into a team carrying off major titles

Dispute nears an end

THE long-running dispute that has brought the Indian cricket season to a standstill moved a step nearer to a resolution yesterday (Simon Wilde writes). A Patiala judge ruled that the result of the Ranji Trophy preliminary match between Delhi and Punjab, which Delhi won by nine wickets in January,

should be over-turned until a next Thursday.

Punjab took their case to court when the Indian board over-ruled the result of a working committee of a working committee of Punjab because their players illegally switched umpires.

Fewer people are standing up for sitting down

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE need for all-seater stadiums throughout the Football League, a key recommendation of the Taylor Report, is increasingly being challenged by clubs, supporters and even people outside the game. Two years after the Hillsborough disaster, memories of the deaths of 95 spectators have become blurred and the cost of converting 92 grounds worrying to football.

The government is adamant. It supports Lord Justice Taylor's opinion that, although there is no panacea which will achieve total safety and cure all problems of behaviour and crowd control, seating does "more to achieve those objectives than any other single measure".

In his final report, Taylor also stressed that the present trend at home and abroad and the rules of world and European football authorities "make the move to all-seating irresistible". Under Uefa rules, European competitions must be played in all-seater stadiums from 1993-4.

Two months ago, the Par-

COMMENT

liamentary Home Affairs Committee stated in a report on hooliganism that installing seating in lower division grounds would be costly. It said that seats "may bring very little reward. The public safety concerns associated with the packed terraces at major grounds do not exist to the same extent at many third and fourth division clubs, playing in front of sparsely populated terraces."

The MPs from the main parties said that, if spectators themselves did not wish, for the sake of comfort, to sit down at matches, they saw little point in making seats compulsory and thought the clubs, which could ill afford the cost, could spend the money more usefully on other ground improvements.

When the government formally replies to the committee later this month, it will reiterate its commitment to having first and second division grounds all-seater by 1994-5 and the lower divisions by 2000.

According to a survey conducted by the Football League, which was published last week, this will cost £430 million.

Even with the Football Trust dispersing £70 million over the next ten years from the spot-the-ball competition and a further £100 million until 1995 from the cut in tax on the football pools, secured when John Major was Chancellor of the Exchequer, the League recognises that there will still be a large shortfall in the money needed to convert grounds.

The League considers that implementing the Taylor Report "remains professional football's biggest headache at the present time". At its extraordinary general meeting on April 18, the management committee, supported by clubs, is proposing a levy on transfer fees and television income to help meet this cost.

However, even this subsidy is unlikely to stop some clubs in the lower divisions from bankruptcy because the finance for conversion will not be available. Frank Clark, the managing director of the third division Leyton Orient, said that it

would cost £10 million to convert Brisbane Road, although he added that Orient had the option of closing the existing terraces and using the 7,200 seats, ample for the average crowd of 4,200.

Orient is fortunate and this allows Clark to be less subjective than many of his colleagues at other smaller clubs, which do not have enough seats to cater for their regular crowds. "I do not think all-seater grounds are necessary for all clubs. However, the game has not come out too strongly against them because it has wanted to be positive and accept the Taylor Report."

Clark welcomed the report's concern for clubs to improve facilities and believed it is a "marvellous opportunity" for them to have genuine community-based stadiums. However, with more than 90 per cent of clubs trading at a loss, it is "pie-in-the-sky" to expect all clubs to be able to convert to all-seater stadiums without a lot more money becoming available.

At Rochdale, fourth division, where the average atten-

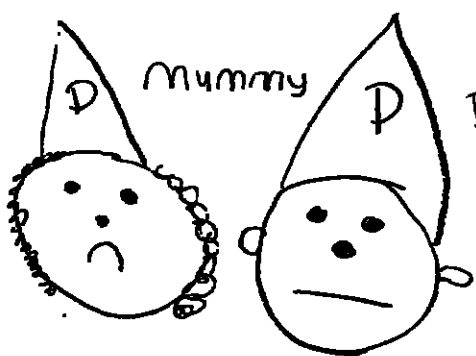
dance is 2,500, there are only 1,000 seats in a ground capacity of 10,000. The secretary, who would cost "several million pounds" to have covered throughout the ground. He "On the basis of fluctuating attendance we are expecting 7,000 for the ticket game with Burnley on it - having all-seater stadiums not stack up. Besides, a supporters prefer to stand."

past many clubs, such as Coventry from 1981 to 1984, have found that when supporters have been forced to have seats, they have on them and even used the missiles.

After Hillsborough, the Sirman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester University surveyed members of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) and concluded that, although all grounds did not attract widespread support, there was less resistance to the idea when the prices of seats were controlled, the seats were under cover and the supporters consulted.

TOMORROW

The Times presents an opportunity for two of our golfing readers to form our team in the Corporate Cup, at Wentworth's new Edinburgh course on May 23. This event, for teams of two people, is the curtain-raiser to the Volvo PGA championship over the Spring Bank holiday weekend, and our winners will be the guests of Volvo on the first day of the tournament.



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